



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Perez de Cuellar Comments on Mideast Situation

During Peru Visit

PY1708192490 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
1825 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Interview with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar by an unidentified reporter in Lima; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] International reports state that Iraq is allegedly willing to negotiate with the United States to solve the Mideast problem. What do you have to say about this?

[Perez de Cuellar] Well, it would be the [words indistinct] during the past few years because it would obviously help ease international tensions, something which has been worrying me greatly. But, according to the information that I have received so far this morning, there is still no clear confirmation in this regard. If the desire to negotiate exists, I believe it should be welcomed. This, undoubtedly, is a very complex matter in which a unilateral decision is very important, but not enough. There is too much involved in this problem. An agreement would be necessary to achieve what we all desire—that peace return to the Persian Gulf after more than 10 years of a dramatic, unstable situation.

[Reporter] Other reports state that Iraq is not willing to allow prisoners of war to return to their country. What is the UN position in this regard?

[Perez] Well—the prisoners of war—I think there is some misunderstanding in that regard. There are only Iranian prisoners of war and those prisoners, as a result of a unilateral proposal by President Saddam Husayn, will allegedly return to their country and Iraqi prisoners in Iran will allegedly return to Iraq. This means there will be an exchange of prisoners of war, and this is something which, for humanitarian reasons, I have been seeking for many years now. I have sought the exchange of prisoners of war, which is compulsory according to the Geneva Convention.

The so-called foreign refugees are another matter; that is, the foreigners who are in Iraq as well as in Kuwait and who wish to return. Those who wish to return should be allowed to return to their country of origin. This is another matter. In other words, they are separate issues.

To Send UN Envoys to Baghdad

PY1908033790 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0100 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] In a special statement to the "Noticias" television program on Lima Television Peruana, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has announced that two high-ranking UN envoys will be sent to Baghdad to negotiate the exit of foreigners from the Persian Gulf area.

The UN secretary general also said that, should his presence be required at the United Nations, he will suspend his scheduled trips to other Latin American countries.

[Begin recording] [Perez de Cuellar] During my stay in Lima, as I have already told you, I have been thinking about actions I could take on the issue of foreigners stranded in the Persian Gulf zone. I have decided to send two high-ranking UN officials to Baghdad, where I assume they will arrive on Monday [20 August], to contact Iraqi Government officials and jointly study the best way to solve the situation of the foreigners who are stranded in that zone.

[Reporter] Is there a possibility of resolving this conflict?

[Perez de Cuellar] Well, I am sending these envoys precisely to explore the possibility of finding a solution to this issue with the Iraqis.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary, who will those high-ranking envoys be?

[Perez de Cuellar] For personal reasons I would prefer not to reveal any names at this time, but they will be two high-ranking UN officials at the level of—as is said in English—under secretary general. In Spanish that is secretary general adjunto. They will go to that area and I expect them to then get in touch with Iraqi Government officials, who—I hope—will be inclined to contribute to resolving this matter in the shortest possible time.

[Reporter] If the situation worsens, will you suspend your current tour?

[Perez de Cuellar] Naturally, I have said since I left Lima that should I consider my presence to be absolutely necessary in New York, I am sure that I will have the understanding of the various countries I am still scheduled to visit, because I would have to go to New York immediately. Less than a month ago I had to cancel a visit to the FRG. I am confident that, with this action [sending the envoys to Baghdad], the tension created by that concrete problem will be in some measure reduced.

[Reporter] Are you satisfied with the time you spent in Peru, with the achievements you made during your stay?

[Perez de Cuellar] Well, my only intended achievement was to try to improve the morale of my countrymen. [end recording]

Farther Comments on Persian Gulf

PY2008132890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0100 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Excerpt] UN Secretary General Dr. Javier Perez de Cuellar today concluded an official five-day visit to our capital [Peru]. He left from the Air Group No. 8 [Air Force base] for Chilean territory, where he is scheduled to hold meetings with Chilean President Patricio Aylwin. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the Persian Gulf issue? Tomorrow there will be a mission that....

[Perez de Cuellar, interrupting] Well now, I believe that things are evolving. One must have the same patience that we Peruvians have with our own difficulties. I must also have the same patience with my problems. I believe that we are moving slowly, perhaps toward a general improvement in the tense situation in the area. One cannot talk about a relaxation, but about an improvement....

[Reporter, interrupting] Will you study this situation upon your return to New York? Will you study this situation upon your return?

[Perez de Cuellar] I am studying it while I am here. Do not forget that I am on the telephone as of 0600 in the morning, getting information, and I believe that things are moving slowly, very slowly. I hope that everyone will exercise the calm, the restraint that is required at this moment when there is so much distress....

[Reporter, interrupting] Mr. Secretary, at this moment the main objective of the United Nations, which has sent envoys [to Baghdad], precisely involves the situation of foreigners in Kuwait.

[Perez de Cuellar] Exactly, exactly. These envoys of mine will hold discussions with authorities to see how they can assist in resolving the problem. [end recording]

Views Foreigners 'Retained' in Iraq

PY2008214090 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
2300 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has officially asked UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to negotiate the release of seven Chileans who are being held as hostages in Iraq together with other foreigners. [passage omitted]

Referring to the Persian Gulf conflict, Perez de Cuellar said that the four resolutions that have been adopted regarding this conflict are very encouraging because they have the unanimous support of the United Nations members. [passage omitted]

The UN secretary termed the foreigners that are being prevented from leaving Iraq and occupied Kuwait as retained.

Asked about President Bush's remarks indicating that those foreigners are hostages, Perez de Cuellar answered that the remark is a personal one. If he believes they are hostages it is a personal position that is to be respected. [passage omitted]

Arab League Official Meets EEC Delegation

LD1708165890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] In Tunis, Adnan 'Umran, Arab League assistant secretary general, met today the EEC troika. The delegation expressed the anxiety of EEC countries with regard to the situation of foreign civilians—in particular citizens of the EEC countries—in Iraq and Kuwait, and asked the Arab League General Secretariat to exert the greatest possible efforts for their safety in order to facilitate their return to their countries.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Leadership Issues Statement on Gulf

NC2008193090 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Statement issued by the PLO leadership following an "emergency session to discuss the serious developments in the Gulf and the entire region" in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] Since the outbreak of the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait in the Gulf region, the Palestinian leadership has been seeking to nip it in the bud, particularly because the prevailing circumstances point to a possible escalation and explosion. The Palestinian leadership sought to contain and resolve this crisis through a fraternal dialogue, in continuation of the role it has been playing since 1973, when a similar dispute erupted between Iraq and Kuwait. At that time, the Palestinian leadership played a significant part in reaching a solution.

Upon the outbreak of the crisis, the Palestinian leadership embarked on efforts with Arab leaders to find an urgent solution within the Arab framework, which would preserve the higher pan-Arab interests and guarantee national rights, sovereignty, and security for all. Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] undertook intensified efforts with Arab leaders in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Yemen, the Libyan Jamahiriya, and Tunisia in an effort to build a sound and balanced foundation for an Arab solution to the crisis which would be in accordance with pan-Arab interests and avert the danger of foreign intervention, which is bound to inflict great harm on the Arab nation, our people's struggle, and our central issue—that of Palestine.

Thanks to these efforts, it was possible to prepare Palestinian-Egyptian-Yemeni-Libyan-Tunisian draft plans which were presented to His Majesty King Fahd and President Saddam Husayn. The outcome of the talks, which all focused on an Arab solution, was discussed with His Excellency Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President Chedli Bendjedid, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir.

Although the current circumstances do not allow us to present the details of these consultations, the primary

achievement of the Palestinian leadership was represented in Iraq's participation in the emergency Arab summit which was urgently called by Egypt and in which Kuwait took part. The second achievement was the proposal to pass a summit resolution establishing a committee embracing kings and heads of state to discuss the various issues with the Iraqi leadership, including the status of Kuwait.

During the Arab summit, brother Abu-'Ammar suggested that the committee comprise Egypt, Jordan, Algeria, Yemen, Palestine, and Saudi Arabia and make efforts during the summit. However, we were not able to put this proposal to a vote. We will not comment now on what happened during the Arab summit nor on the manner in which it was concluded. However, we will only note that three heads of state were deprived of the right to speak and their proposals were not put to a vote, although the Palestinian proposal had called on the proposed committee to be guided in its work and in contacts with the Iraqi leadership by the speech which President Husni Mubarak delivered at the opening session of the Arab summit. In that speech, Mubarak emphasized that the solution must be within the Arab framework and warned against a possible explosive situation.

The Palestinian leadership had succeeded in winning the approval of all parties concerned, particularly Iraq, for that proposal and in making the committee's mission include a discussion of all issues without exception, including the status of Kuwait.

Before and during the summit meeting, the Palestinian stand was based on the need to reach an Arab solution and reject foreign intervention—something that was emphasized in Article 7 of the resolution issued by the Arab foreign ministers conference which was held in Cairo on 3 August.

After the sudden conclusion of the summit, the Palestinian leadership continued its efforts on the Arab and international levels, out of its conviction that the continuation of the crisis and intensive military intervention were bound to cause the outbreak of a destructive war. Such a war will harm the Arabs' economic, human, and military resources, undermine the Arab states, and open the door to Israeli expansionism and the imperialist forces which seek to control the area's wealth and its people's destinies, eradicate the Palestinian issue, and Balkanize the area.

The Iraqi initiative was the most important event that took place after the summit. The initiative contained positive elements, and was welcomed by the Palestinian leadership. The initiative stated Iraq's readiness to discuss the circumstances of a withdrawal from Kuwait and an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian lands, including Jerusalem, Golan Heights, and Lebanon, in implementation of the principles of international legitimacy and UN resolutions.

It is strange that the United States, which massed its fleets and its huge war machine on the pretext of defending international legitimacy, is the very one which for the past 25 years has prevented the UN Security Council from adopting any resolution or measures against Israeli terrorism, the occupation of the Palestinian and Arab lands, the violation of Palestinian human rights, and Israeli crimes. The history of U.S. policy bears witness to its constant protection of Israel through its vetoes at the Security Council, and its disavowal of the principle of the inadmissibility of the seizure of land by force. This principle constitutes one of the mainstays of international legitimacy by which we abide and which we defend.

The Palestinian leadership, along with the brothers in the Yemeni and Sudanese leaderships, had developed the principles of the Iraqi initiative to serve the formula of the Arab solution to the Gulf crisis through a role to be played by Arab forces to safeguard the dignity and rights of all parties and to defend the Arab nation's future and unity.

If there is any need to seek the help of international forces, we believe that these forces should be under the flag and supervision of the United Nations. This and similar proposals were presented to the Security Council's permanent member states, the nonaligned states, the Arab and friendly states, the UN secretary general, and the Security Council chairman.

The Palestinian leadership continues its efforts out of its conviction for the need to safeguard Arab solidarity and protect Arab national security against the threats of hostile forces which do not seek to protect the Arabs' interests and homeland. These forces are instead seeking to ensure their control of the Arab region, to plunder its wealth, and to subjugate it to their strategic requirements.

The target of these efforts has been and is still to avert the catastrophe of war, for which Washington is beating the drums. The goal is not to realize trivial financial or media gains or to curry favor with others at the expense of the higher national interests of our Arab nation, which is experiencing the most critical and fateful stages in its history. This stage requires conscientious meditation.

Throughout the crisis, the PLO has been working in accordance with the principle of preserving the higher Arab interests and solidarity and seeking an honorable solution that preserves the dignity and rights of all. It did not seek a solution in favor of one party at the expense of another, but rather a solution that safeguards the security and safety of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf, and the entire Arab region. All this agrees with the interests of our Arab nation and our Palestinian people, as well as with the continued daring intifadah, which the enemy is trying to oppress and terrorize further under the pretext of the crisis, a crisis on which Israel is collaborating with the United States to aggravate further.

However, the PLO was unpleasantly surprised by a planned and ferocious political media campaign against its chairman and leadership. The campaign developed

into a defamation campaign against the Palestinian people and the history of their struggle with a view to dealing a blow to their intifadah and their sacred cause. To this should be added the incitement against the Palestinian communities in the Gulf, where a number of Palestinians were deported and expelled for no offense.

Unfortunately, certain sections of the Arab and foreign mass media are involved in fueling this unfair and planned campaign against the Palestinian people and their leadership. Such people are not aware that they are playing with fire and applauding what is threatening our Arab nation with destruction and ruin. They are collaborating with our enemies to deal a blow to the unity, future, and existence of our nation.

Eagerness to protect the Arab destiny and the map of the Arab nation demands that the loyal sons of this nation make every possible effort to tackle the Gulf crisis within the Arab framework and through Arab means, free from foreign intervention. The Palestinian leadership will continue its endeavors relentlessly and without giving in to frustration, even if designing people tear its flesh or commit excesses, particularly those who only want to hear the drums of war from Washington. What is required is an Arab solution to the crisis, because it is the only hope to prevent a destructive war that would hurt us all, God forbid. We have to work in all sincerity and faith and make every possible effort to avert that war in order to protect the higher interests of our Arab nation and its unity, security, and future. May the Almighty be our witness. It is a revolution until victory.

Intifadah Command Condemns 'Imperialist Invasion' NC1908103990

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic at 0430 GMT on 19 August carries the approximately 18-minute "Text of Proclamation Number One Issued by the Unified National Command of the Intifadah on the Confrontation of the Imperialist Invasion." The radio does not provide the date on which the proclamation was issued. The proclamation calls for "resolving Arab problems through understanding" and for "confronting the multinational force whose vanguards have begun to invade Arab territory in the Arabian Peninsula and to impose a military and economic blockade [hisar] on fraternal Iraq."

After referring to the "imperialist fleets" and forces which supported the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon and invaded Panama and Grenada and "killed, burned, and destroyed the Panamanian people who were struggling to liberate their land and [word indistinct] from the invaders," the proclamation says that instead of having the Syrian Army "stand alongside the American Army in confronting Iraq, the correct and natural place for the Syrian Army is to stand in the same trench as the Iraqi Army." Referring to the Iranian stand, the proclamation says that Iran has not said that Iraq is the Archdean, but it said, "The United States is that Satan." The proclamation says: "The Arab destiny is in danger," and "our

will shall triumph, and our faith in our Arabism and our right shall triumph." Otherwise, "We shall return anew to the era of colonialism." The proclamation adds that this is an opportunity for all honest people in the Arab nation to "confront this organized imperialist invasion, each according to his capabilities," because "not only Iraq is in danger, but the entire Arab nation."

The proclamation emphasizes that the intifadah masses stand in the same trench as Iraq on the basis of "our faith in the common goal and the unity of the Arab destiny." It adds: "We declare that we rally around the PLO stand that has been adopted by its leadership since the start of the events in the Gulf." The proclamation says that the Unified National Command of the Intifadah appeals to the Arab people and their nationalist forces, "to support fraternal Iraq and to extend all means of material and moral support to it in its confrontation of this aggression." The Unified Command proclamation concludes by calling on the masses in the State of Palestine to regard 19 August as a day of solidarity with Iraq by staging demonstrations and marches in "all parts of our independent state," to emphasize our people's condemnation of the imperialist aggression against Iraq.

OPEC Affairs

Talks Underway To Convene Ministerial Meeting

Saudi Arabian Request

LD2008121690 Algiers APS in English 1017 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Algiers, 20 August (APS)—Sources close to minister of mines and industry, Sadek Bouasena, acting chairman of OPEC [title as received], confirmed that consultations are underway following a request by the Saudi Minister of Oil for a meeting of OPEC.

By Sunday evening, nine countries officially reacted to the proposal. In addition to Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, three countries have already accepted the convening of an immediate extraordinary ministerial conference.

The status of the organization stipulates that a minimum of seven members is necessary in order that such a meeting could be held and that a quorum of ten participants is necessary in order that an extraordinary ministerial conference could be held.

At the present stage of discussions within the organization and given the situation of the international oil market, it seems that the majority of member countries are not against the holding of an OPEC meeting, however differences persist concerning the date and the form of such a meeting.

Some members hope to meet immediately (a proposal was made for August 20), others consider that it would be preferable to avoid a precipitation [as received] which in the present context, would put the organization in front of problems that are far from its competence. It has been

suggested to the OPEC chairman, in conformity with prerogatives the statute of the organization allows him to undertake, to convene by the end of August a consultative meeting which would gather the minimum conditions for the holding of an extraordinary conference.

The chairman of the conference, hoping to avoid divergences that may lead to divisions and seeking to reach a compromise, is continuing his contacts in order to reach a consensus or at least an adhesion of a significant majority about an action that takes into account the concerns of all sides.

In the delicate phase OPEC is going through, the chairman assured his colleagues that his action is guided only by statutory regulations of the organization and the permanent concern about the search of the maximum consensus by putting the stress on:

- the preservation of the unity of OPEC at the service of the defence of revenues of member countries.
- the attachment to the spirit of the last resolution of July 27 and which was the result of a laborious negotiation and mainly the necessity for OPEC to influence within the limits of its capacities on oil prices in order to avoid fluctuations which, as experience has shown, are harmful both for consumers and producers.
- the responsibility of OPEC is shared with other partners on the international market, in the world supply of oil, in order to preserve a balance of offer and demand, which is considered as vital for all the international community.

Iran Opposes Emergency Meeting

NC2008101490 Paris AFP in English 0957 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug 20 (AFP)—Iran on Monday said it opposed a Saudi call for an emergency meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), stressing there was no danger of a shortage on world oil markets.

Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh told AFP "the current problem is not a possible shortage of oil but rather the political conditions in the Gulf."

Saudi Arabia and Venezuela have both called for an OPEC meeting to determine whether or not the cartel should boost output to compensate for a shortfall of four million barrels a day, caused by an international embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti exports.

"Putting aside national strategic stocks, off-shore reserves around the world have still not been absorbed by the market and there is therefore no risk of a shortage," Mr. Aqazadeh said.

He predicted that the Saudi call would not find majority backing among the 13 members of OPEC. Indonesia, Nigeria and Algeria have all said an emergency meeting now would be premature.

Oil analysts said Sunday that Saudi Arabia and Venezuela might boost their production even without formal OPEC approval. Both Iraq and Iran have issued strong warnings against such a move.

Iran Oil Minister Comments

LD2008113490 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Monday said that Iran disagreed with holding of a proposed OPEC emergency session.

Aqazadeh told IRNA, "President of the OPEC Conference Algerian Energy and Petroleum Industry Minister Sadek Boumenna [title as received] has officially been informed of Iran's opposition to the holding of the (OPEC) emergency session." Moreover, he added, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo Panchari who visited Tehran on August 13 had been briefed of Iran's stand.

Elaborating further on the reasons for Iran's opposition, Aqazadeh said, "A surplus of about 180 million barrels of floating stock could easily compensate for the stoppage in the delivery of about 4.5 million barrels per day of oil previously pumped by Iraq and Kuwait." This amount, he stressed, was in addition to the strategic oil reserves of the consumer countries which can meet their demands for almost 90 days.

Western media in the past few days reported that at least seven OPEC members agreed with the holding of the session which was scheduled in Vienna today.

According to Aqazadeh the session was cancelled since the number of participating countries failed to reach the needed quorum.

As for the situation of oil shipment in the Persian Gulf, the Iranian minister said, "Iran faced no problem in this respect," adding "Iran has been turned into one of the most reliable place for oil clients."

Meeting Will Not Convene

JN2108071090 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Vienna, Aug 20, INA—The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) secretariat issued a statement here today saying that in response to press reports on a possible meeting for the OPEC on the request of Saudi Arabia it appeared necessary to state that such a meeting required the agreement of seven member states' majority, according to the Organization's Charter, to enable the holding of an urgent meeting and since the Saudi request did not obtain required support therefore such urgent meeting would not be convened.

The statement added that due to the situation in the international oil market and to reflect the Organization's concern, therefore the Organization's chairman, Algerian Mines Minister Sadik Boussena, will hold separate meetings with a number of OPEC's oil minister before the end of this month.

Limited Consultative Meeting Sought

*AU2108065090 Paris AFP in English 0158 GMT
21 Aug 90*

[Report by Isabelle Hourcade]

[Excerpts] Paris, Aug 21 (AFP)—Some OPEC members are trying to organize a restricted consultative meeting to discuss the desire of some countries to raise their oil production levels, several sources said here late Monday. Saudi Arabia meanwhile threatened to increase oil production whatever the other members did, after failing Monday to obtain a majority in favour of a special OPEC conference in light of the Gulf crisis.

Separate sources said an undisclosed number of members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries were working to bring about a consultative meeting by the end of the month, which would not be a full conference. The OPEC Secretariat had announced Monday that the oil producers' grouping would not hold a special conference, as Saudi Arabia's proposal to do so had not received backing from a majority of the 13 member countries.

(In Jeddah, Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir said in response that if OPEC did not act to regulate oil production and stabilize prices, its member countries would have to "look after their own interests," according to the official Saudi news agency.)

The world oil market has been shaken by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent United Nations-approved international embargo on both countries which has dried up their oil exports. The OPEC Secretariat said Monday that in view of the organization's "serious concerns," OPEC President Sadek Boussena, the Algerian Minister of Mines, was to meet "some OPEC oil ministers" for consultations.

Indonesia has proposed a meeting with five other OPEC members Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Iran, Venezuela and Algeria but Indonesian Oil Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita said Monday in Jakarta that it could not be held before Sunday at the earliest. He added that a full OPEC session could prove useless and create tension, reflecting the view of members who fear that it would turn into open political confrontation between Iraq and Kuwait.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh on Monday told Agence France-Presse that "the current problem is not a possible shortage of oil but rather the political conditions in the Gulf." Both Iran and Iraq have issued strong warnings against a production hike by Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Sources close to OPEC said here Monday that most member countries had sufficient stocks to cope with the shortfall of four million b/d [barrels per day] caused by the embargo. Iran's Mr. Aqazadeh said Monday that a "third oil shock" was not in the interests of OPEC and called on members to work for the best conditions to prepare for increased winter demand in the fourth quarter.

Algeria

Bendjedid Continues Reception of Foreign Envoys

Venezuelan Foreign Minister

LD1508212790 Algiers Television Service
in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The oil complications of the Gulf crisis were covered in the audience which Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, the president of the Republic, accorded to the envoy of Venezuelan president Carlos Andres Perez. We follow the meeting with [reporter] Ali Bendjelid from our station in Oran.

[Bendjelid] President Chadli Bendjedid received at his residence in Les Andalouses in Oran this morning Mr. Planchart Reinaldo Figueredo, Venezuelan foreign minister and special envoy of President Carlos Andres Perez. During this meeting, which was attended by our foreign minister, Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghazali, President Chadli received a written message from his Venezuelan counterpart which mentioned the oil repercussions caused by the Gulf crisis. The Venezuelan minister briefed his excellency the president on the idea of convening an emergency meeting of OPEC oil ministers to study the ways of dealing with the current situation in the international arena. [passage omitted]

Mauritanian Interior Minister

AB2008213490 Nouakchott Domestic Service
in French 1430 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] This morning, Major Cheik Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] and minister of interior, post, and telecommunications, was received in audience at Oran, Algeria, by President Chadli Bendjedid to whom he delivered a message from Colonel Maouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state.

Iraqi Higher Education Minister

JN2008185490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Algiers, 20 Aug (INA)—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid today received Mundhir Ibrahim, President Saddam Husayn's envoy and minister of higher education and scientific research.

During the meeting, the president's envoy delivered a written message dealing with the latest developments on the Arab arena, and the serious threat of the U.S. military presence in the Arab region.

The meeting was attended by Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali and the Iraqi ambassador in Algiers.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Algiers, Mr. Mundhir Ibrahim said President Bendjedid showed sincere concern for the security of Iraq and the Arab nation against any external threats. He added the Algerian

president has asked him to convey greetings to President Saddam Husayn and sincere hopes that the Arabs will come out of this crisis with a clear victory.

France's Mauroy

LD1408213190 Algiers Television Service
in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid this evening received Pierre Mauroy, first secretary of the French Socialist Party and special envoy of French President Francois Mitterrand. The meeting, which took place at the president's headquarters in (al-Andalus) in Oran, was attended by Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali. During his meeting with the president the French special envoy submitted France's stance on the Arab East crisis. Following the meeting Pierre Mauroy made the following statement to journalists:

[Begin video recording in French] [Unidentified reporter] Mr. Mauroy, you have just had talks with President Chadli Bendjedid. Could you tell us what was said and what was the content of the talks?

[Mauroy] Listen, I do not think it is for me to tell you exactly what was said, what the content of the talks was. The president speaks. [sentence as heard] You know that if I am here, I am here as the envoy of President of the French Republic Francois Mitterrand, and so I would like to report back to him and give him the first account of the information given to me by President Chadli.

Nevertheless, you know that France's position with regard to the Gulf crisis is a position of firmness, and it condemns the aggression. But it is also a position of solidarity, a position of solidarity with the Arab countries, because we hope they can find a solution. It's not easy, and they are certainly divided, but we hope so. Our solidarity is also with the world powers, as well as what has been said at the level of the international community. We also think in terms of solidarity with the context of the United Nations, because we believe the United Nations has the opportunity to express an authority that it did not have before because of the East-West problems. There are now great changes following the events in the East, and we can clearly see the position of the USSR.

But I must say that if France expresses this desire for firmness, the desire for solidarity against a downright aggression which is not acceptable, it also intends to show that it is available, which could make a difference. It expresses this in a particular way, it expresses it while watching over its forces in the Gulf, which must remain under French command. It also expresses it when it says that the United Nations has decided on an embargo and not a blockade. It also expresses it, undoubtedly, by the fact that the president has decided to send about a dozen envoys to 24 countries to show France's position from every angle. [end recording]

[Algiers Domestic in French at 2200 GMT on 18 August reports that Mauroy also held talks "this afternoon" with Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche.]

Saudi Envoy Regrets Local Press Reports

LD2008123790 Algiers APS in English 1014 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Algiers, 20 August (APS)—Advisor and special envoy of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, 'Ali Bin-Musallam held here yesterday a press conference in which he dealt with the situation in the Gulf.

After a speech centered on the developments of the Iraq-Kuwaiti conflict, as well as the efforts of mediation made by the Arab countries for the improvement of the situation, 'Ali Bin-Musallam regretted certain writings of the Algerian press. According to him they do not reflect the reality notably about the respect of the holy places since the foreign forces are located in 1500km from these places.

To a question relative to the American presence in Saudi Arabia, the special envoy of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia answered that his country felt threatened by the strong presence of the Iraqi troops in its frontiers and this is why it turned to all the means in order to safeguard its security. He moreover reaffirmed the readiness of his country to an Arab solution.

'Ali Bin Musallam stated that the situation is dangerous and could degenerate to flare up the whole Arab world. [sentence as received]

Discusses Foreign Forces in Gulf

LD2008204390 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] To clarify matters and the various positions of the parties in the Gulf crisis, here is the Saudi ambassador in Algeria, who answers television correspondent Rachida Hamadi:

[Hamadi] Does the presence of U.S. and European forces in Saudi Arabia constitute a danger for the stability and security of the region?

[Ambassador] We asked the Arab world, and we are still asking the Islamic world, if [there is] an Arab-Islamic or Arab force that is equivalent to the force of Iraq and that could guarantee there would be no aggression against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [If such a force could be found], we would, of course, request the foreign forces to withdraw! However, our principle requests are the unconditional withdrawal of the invading Iraqi forces from Kuwait; the return of the legitimate regime, the legitimate government that had ruled Kuwait; and the absence of threats to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from any party. As is known, the Arab and foreign presence is close to the petroleum fields, which are nearly 1,500 kms away from the holy places. Thus, there is a confusion of the situation, and I do not know who started it. I would like to clarify that point.

[Hamadi] Will (?Saudi Arabia) increase its petroleum output and compensate for the production of Iraq and Kuwait?

[Ambassador] That is not true, and an official Saudi denial of this was issued yesterday. We had requested a meeting of OPEC to discuss the situation, the world shortage of petroleum.

Assembly Commission Hears Envoys on Gulf Crisis

LD1408195890 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Here at home the development of the [Gulf] situation is being followed closely. People are acquainting themselves with the latest developments, and citizens are particularly aware of the problem. Some political parties have called for rallies and demonstrations to protest the foreign presence. [passage omitted]

The People's National Assembly, through its Foreign Affairs Commission, is increasing its contacts with Arab diplomatic missions in Algiers. Dr. Djamal Ould Abbes, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission, received the ambassadors of Iraq and Kuwait yesterday and had talks this morning with the ambassadors of Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Dr. Ould Abbes gave Faisal Hafed a summary of these talks and the viewpoint of the diplomats concerned on the current problems in the Middle East:

[Begin recording] [Ould Abbes] This morning we received the Saudi Arabian ambassador, which means that in our contacts we are listening to the ambassadors of all the countries directly or indirectly concerned with the conflict. Each time we reaffirmed our country's position on this grave crisis that the Middle East is experiencing.

History has taught us—ancient and modern history—has taught us that violence always begets violence, and that no foreign intervention or occupation can last forever. Algeria is well placed to speak of this. [passage omitted] It is always the people who triumph in the end.

The solution to this crisis can only be an Arab one, and this is Algeria's stance, the unchanging position since November 1954. Algeria's stance was confirmed in Cairo, and we can say quite calmly that it is the Arabs who can solve this problem among themselves.

However, it must be stressed that the situation has developed very quickly, more quickly than was originally thought. It is becoming really very difficult to make an objective analysis, particularly as there are increasing events taking place at a speed to which we are not accustomed.

This afternoon we will receive the U.S. ambassador and the Italian charge d'affaires (?and tomorrow) two ambassadors to obtain the most information to confirm our position. I should, however, like to stress Jordan's position, which is very close, which is very similar to Algeria's position. The Saudi ambassador expressed the wish that the media give us the opportunity to speak.

What I should like to stress is that the situation has developed in the Arab world and in the Moslem world with popular movements, which make a rapid end to the situation rather difficult. [sentence as heard]

[Hafed] What is the Assembly's position with regard to Algeria's abstention during the vote at the Cairo Arab summit?

[Ould Abbas] Algeria's position is very clear. Abstention is a positive vote. Algeria, in my view, could not find the consensus, in my humble opinion, which was necessary for an Arab solution to the situation in the Middle East. This is why other factors were necessary. Foreign Minister Ghazali said this clearly: Many elements which had been prepared by the foreign ministers' commission to reach an Arab consensus, with an Arab solution to the problem between two Arab countries, were lacking. [end recording]

Egypt

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives 19 Aug

NC1908091390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Alexandria this morning to visit for several hours and to be received by President Husni Mubarak. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was on hand to receive him.

The visit comes due to consultations which Egypt is conducting about developments in the Gulf situation in the wake of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Meets Mubarak

NC1908093290 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0925 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 19 Aug (MENA)—Today President Husni Mubarak received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who arrived in Alexandria earlier. [passage omitted]

Concludes Visit

NC1908120190 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1145 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Aug (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal left Cairo this afternoon after visiting Egypt for several hours and having an audience with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, saw him off at the airport.

Mubarak Receives European Delegation

NC1708152490 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1426 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 17 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this afternoon received the 12-member

European troika delegation, led by Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis. The delegation includes Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins and Luxemburg State Secretary for Foreign Affairs George Wohlfart.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; European Commission Member Abel Matutes; and the accredited ambassadors of Italy, Ireland, Holland, and the EC. [passage omitted]

The delegation arrived in Alexandria from Saudi Arabia earlier today, within the framework of a tour of the region, which began with a visit to Jordan.

Soviet Envoy Sytenko Arrives, Comments on Gulf

Favors Peaceful Means

NC1808185990 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1805 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Aug (MENA)—Mikhail Sytenko, official envoy of the Soviet leadership, arrived in Cairo from Libya this evening on a visit to Egypt as part of his current Middle East tour.

In an arrival statement, the Soviet envoy said his visit to Egypt is intended to exchange views with Egyptian officials on the current conflict between Iraq and Kuwait and to convey the Soviet leadership's stand on the issue of conflict in the Gulf region. The Soviet envoy added: We also would like to exchange views about the future steps regarding the current conflict in view of the negative developments in the Gulf region.

The Soviet envoy went on to say that military confrontation would have negative results, particularly since the parties to the conflict possess sophisticated destructive weapons. He noted that the Soviet Union believes that any problem can be resolved through peaceful means. He added: We believe that measures should be adopted collectively to stop the negative developments in the Gulf situation.

In his statement, Sytenko pointed out that his talks with Egyptian officials will deal with the entire situation, adding: Our stand on this conflict is clear and was demonstrated in the initiative to operate the UN military committee and discuss the methods required to utilize its potential by the multinational force in the Gulf region.

The Soviet envoy said his current tour includes Syria, Libya, Egypt, the Republic of Yemen, Jordan, and Iraq. The tour may also include other Middle East countries, he added.

Meets 'Abd-al-Majid, Ghali

NC1908145390 Cairo Domestic Service
in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Mikhail Sytenko,

official envoy of the Soviet leadership. The meeting was attended by the Soviet ambassador in Cairo.

Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state of foreign affairs, also met with the Soviet envoy today. Dr. Ghali said the talks during the meeting revolved around the situation in the Gulf. He added that Egypt and the Soviet Union oppose any military settlement of the situation and support the solution of the problem through peaceful means. The Soviet envoy said that his country opposes holding foreigners in Iraq by force because it is inhumane.

Comments on Iraq's Iran Initiative

*NC1808145490 Cairo Domestic Service
in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Aug 90*

[Text] The Soviet ambassador in Cairo has asserted that Iraq's decision to withdraw from Iranian territory, exchange POW's, and endorse the Algiers agreement means that the eight-year war, which cost the two sides more than a million victims and tens of billions of dollars, was futile.

The Soviet ambassador said the Iraqi president's concessions to Iran were intended to give him a way out of the economic blockade via Iran.

Arab League Council Meeting for 26 Aug Requested

*NC1808125990 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1149 GMT 18 Aug 90*

[Text] Cairo, 18 (MENA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt has requested an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council at the foreign ministerial level on 26 August, to implement the seventh clause of the resolution of the extraordinary Arab summit, held in Cairo from 9 to 10 August.

The seventh clause instructs the Arab League secretary general to follow up on implementing the resolution and to submit a report on this issue to the Arab League Council so that it can adopt appropriate measures.

The Foreign Ministry has summoned the Arab ambassadors in Cairo and informed them of the Egyptian request. It also informed the Arab League Secretariat.

ACC Official Denies Nation's Withdrawal

NC1908134490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Hilmi Nammar, secretary general of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], has denied a report published in an Arab newspaper today that he visited Amman yesterday with a message from President Husni Mubarak to King Husayn, the current chairman of the ACC, concerning Egypt's withdrawal from the ACC. Dr. Nammar said the report is completely baseless.

In a statement to MENA, Dr. Nammar said Egypt wants the ACC to continue its work because it represents an

image of Arab solidarity. He added that he will leave for Amman on Wednesday to assume his duties there.

Dr. Nammar expressed the hope that the current dispute between Iraq and Kuwait will be solved peacefully.

Palestinian Radio in Cairo Reportedly Closed

*NC1808151490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 18 Aug 90*

[Text] The Egyptian Government has closed the Voice of Palestine radio in Cairo because of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's partiality toward Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait. On the other hand, the This Is Kuwait [Huna al-Kuwayt] radio began broadcasting its programs from Cairo to express the opinion of the Kuwaiti legitimate authority on confronting the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. This has been reported by the London-based daily Al-HAYAH.

Returnees From Kuwait Describe Mistreatment

*NC1708165790 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1610 GMT 17 Aug 90*

[Text] Cairo, 17 Aug (MENA)—This afternoon Egyptian military aircraft brought 675 Egyptian nationals who had been working in Kuwait to Cairo airport from the Saudi area of Hafar al-Batin. The Egyptians escaped from Kuwait to Saudi Arabia by road after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The returnees unanimously agreed that the Iraqi soldiers mistreated the Egyptians, particularly during the first three days after the invasion. They were griefstricken about the hardships they endured during their attempts to escape Kuwait. Some described the road linking Kuwait to Saudi Arabia as "a graveyard for several families who died during the escape attempt."

All the Egyptian returnees commended the excellent treatment they received from their brother Saudis when they arrived at the border. They said Saudi ambulances transported them, supplied them with food and water, and provided them with all they needed on their trip home on board Egyptian military aircraft.

Upon arrival at the airport, the returnees shouted "Long Live Mubarak." They expressed their joy at returning home, despite their losses in both property and cash.

The Armed Forces men, in cooperation with the airport authority, are receiving the returnees and helping them overcome all the problems they may encounter.

AL-AHRAM Calls for More Pressure on Iraq

*NC1908113790 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0624 GMT 19 Aug 90*

[Excerpts] Cairo, 19 Aug (MENA)—Cairo papers continue their denunciation of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its consequences that could in the end lead to war breaking out in the Gulf region.

In their 19 August issues, the papers call on the international community, governments, and international and regional organizations to continue their efforts to convince Iraq to return to justice and legitimacy, noting that a single spark could detonate the situation in the region. [passage omitted]

Under the headline "The Perils of Letting Matters Get Out of Hand," AL-AHRAM calls for continuing the international efforts to defuse the Gulf crisis. It says that stopping at the punitive measures taken by the international community against Iraq and waiting for their results could lead to a catastrophe when options narrow and hence lead to a frenzied outburst.

The paper also calls on the United Nations, international and regional organizations, and governments to continue their other efforts to convince Iraq to return to justice and legitimacy because it would certainly respond to this, whether Saddam is there or not, if it assesses the situation well and an opportunity appears for even a little bit of face-saving.

AL-AHRAM warns that a single spark is enough to detonate the situation in the Gulf region and could turn into a war of nerves with the massing of troops and the international siege. It says that if the "allies" continue the pressure with a clear measure of discipline and order and do not rush the results, then the signs are that Iraq itself will necessarily let matters get out of hand. It notes that observers continue to hope for a move backward—a retreat from the point of climax, by a show of a measure of flexibility even if this has to be masked. They also expect foreign pressure to make Iraq seek other ways to escape the crisis, such as to continue to come forward with initiatives. They also expect Iraq to add clarity, definition, and possibly concessions to its initiatives, which it did not do with former initiatives.

AL-AHRAM adds that there are always those who believe that there is a danger in a move forward, meaning that the more pressure there is, the more despair and frustration there will be and that this could open other paths for recklessness and thrusts. If the Kuwaiti invasion step came after what is clearly shortsighted arrangements, planning, and calculations, then it is feared that it will be followed by other incautious step or steps when the siege noose is tightened, leading to psychological and mental breakdowns among Iraq's leaders and pushing them toward overcoming difficulties through aggressive and hysterical adventures. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Saddam's Iran Initiative

NC1508203090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1150 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: Why Then the War With Iran?]

[Text] We do not know whether the Iraqi leadership has prepared all these initiatives as part of the war plan to swallow up Kuwait in a blitzkrieg operation similar to

the Hitlerite ones at the start of World War II or whether Saddam Husayn's initiatives are being prepared daily because events force him into action.

All of this is not important now. What is important and surprising at the same time is to see Saddam Husayn offer Iran an initiative that restores things to what they were before the long years of war, destruction, human and economic ruin; a war which bankrupted the two countries, disrupted their development plans, and made them lose much at the Islamic and international levels and has even given the world a wrong impression of Islam because of the events of this war. In his initiative to Iran, Saddam Husayn is demanding that they go back to the Algiers treaty of 1975 in order to remove all obstacles to renewing ties of brotherhood with the Muslims of neighboring Iran and paving the way for serious interaction with all believers to confront the evildoers and to distance Iraq and Iran from evil international blackmail and games.

As a reminder only, we say that Saddam Husayn signed the Algiers treaty with Iran in 1975 when Iraq was exhausted by the Kurdish forces. It established many points of agreement to resolve the pending problems between the Iraqi and Iranian sides. But following the downfall of the Shah of Iran, the Ayatollah Khomeyni revolution and the resultant profound internal changes, particularly in the Iranian armed forces' ranks, and after Kurdish pressures on him had eased, Saddam Husayn believed that Iraq had the opportunity to deal a blow to Iran before it could rise and reorganize its ranks. Saddam Husayn did in fact provoke the Iranians who were living in Iraq. This provocation included killing, expulsion, and the confiscation of money and possessions. That was the prelude for the bloody eight years' war that destroyed everything.

Now, after all the suffering of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples, Saddam Husayn declares his readiness to return to the Algiers treaty of 1975. We ask: What was the purpose of this war, the sacrifices, the thousands killed, wounded, maimed? What was the purpose of the economic destruction that ate up the wealth of Iraq and all the Gulf states which backed Saddam? The cost of the war reached more than \$150 billion. Why did Saddam attack Iran? Why did he call Muslim Iran Persia and call his war the new al-Qadisiyah? We want answers to all these questions. Did Saddam do all this out of a belief in justice and in jihad to liberate territories which he thought Iran had usurped from him and then discovered only now that he was wrong and is trying to amend, asking for pardon, and regretting what he did? Or did Saddam see in his war with Iran an easy political, military, and economic opportunity after the Khomeyni revolution to deal a blow like the one he dealt to Kuwait, a blow that would bring him a victory and increase his esteem among the Arabs? But he got involved and shed the blood of the Iraqi people in a futile adventure. Now he comes to flatter the Iranian leadership in the name of Islam so that it will stand with him in one solid rank against the evil international forces.

Whom do we believe: The Saddam who fought eight bloody years in defense of what he termed the eastern gate of the Arab world and sacrificed the sons of his country to glorify his new al-Qadisiyah or the Saddam who then, after all that had happened, accepts what he had originally rejected as if nothing had happened and as if the defense of the eastern gate were merely an adventure in leadership and a fulfillment of a personal ambition?

Saddam Husayn's initiative to flatter Iran and to implement the principle of peace as he said in his message to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has two aims. The first is to expand his scope for maneuvering after all the doors have been closed to him and he is in a state of unprecedented international isolation, even if the price has to be the return to the treaty he had rejected, a rejection which caused the war and the sacrifices. The second aim is to flatter the Islamic sectors by extending the hand of reconciliation to Iran but ignoring all the damage he has done to Muslim Iran and to Islam itself when he, through this war, depicted Islam as a creed of war that knows no magnanimity, does not practice dialogue, and only speaks the language of terrorism. Thus Saddam Husayn is risking everything in return for attracting some Islamic sectors under the pretext of defending Islam against foreign intervention. We do not believe that a single Muslim is prepared to go along with Saddam in his game or his maneuvers. Every Muslim has seen what he has never seen before: Iraq's Muslim forces violate the Kuwaiti Muslim territory and people in a way that even Hulako's forces refrained from. Still, after having lost his credibility, Saddam has no qualms about kneeling before Rafsanjani to beg for pardon and forgiveness. If Saddam had really been courageous, he would have asked forgiveness from the Arab nation and withdrawn his forces from Kuwait, thus ending all complications and interventions, and wounds would have been closed and bridges repaired. But it seems that kneeling before Iran does not wound Saddam's honor, hurt his feelings, or stir his dignity. We only remind him that his message to Iran has wounded the dignity of all Arabs and Muslims because it is not sincere and does not reflect the courage of men. The truth is that this message is a good piece of cheap political maneuvering.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Belgian Envoy

LD1308213190 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 13 Aug 90

[text] The brother leader of the revolution has received the Belgian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyyah. The ambassador was received in his country's capacity as representative of U.S. interests in the Great Jamahiriyyah. [video shows al-Qadhdhafi receiving and shaking hands with the ambassador]

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Message to Tunisia's Ben Ali

LD1708082890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0725 GMT
17 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 17 Aug (JANA)—President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the sister Republic of Tunisia yesterday evening received the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation as a personal envoy from the brother leader of the revolution to the heads of the Arab Maghreb Union.

The brother secretary conveyed to President Ben Ali a message from the brother leader of the revolution related to the brother leader's initiative to hold an emergency meeting of the [UN] Security Council in Geneva in order to settle the situation in the Gulf, and to rearrange things according to UN Charter

The meeting was attended by the general representative of the great Jamahiriyyah in Tunisia.

Soviet Envoy Meets Foreign Liaison Officials

LD1708184990 Tripoli JANA in English 1756 GMT
17 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal 17 [17 August], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mikhail Chichenco [name as received], the personal envoy of the Soviet leadership, was received today at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.

The Soviet leadership's envoy conveyed during this meeting the point of view of the Soviet Government with regards to the current situation in the Arab Gulf region.

During this meeting the Soviet envoy was informed about the point of view of Great Jamahiriyyah regarding the development in the Arab Gulf region.

Points of view were exchanged also on the dimensions of such developments and their reflections on (security and) peace in the region.

Mubarak Telephones Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1808100590 Tripoli JANA in English 0826 GMT
18 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The president of the Arab Republic of Egypt Muhammad Husni Mubarak last night phoned the leader of the revolution.

Al-Qadhdhafi Discusses Gulf Crisis, Jihad

LD1808125290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1218 GMT
18 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Aug (JANA)—Col. Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great al-Fatih revolution, stated that, personally speaking, he does not see any clear sign of hostility in the conflict in the Arab Gulf region. He told French TV 5 network last night that Iraq has

repeatedly stated that it has no ill intentions against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and that the issue of Kuwait concerns Iraq, the Arab League, and the United Nations. He stated that there [word indistinct] between Iraq and any other country, with the exception of Kuwait.

Answering a question on the failure of negotiations between President Saddam Husayn and the U.S. President, and whether the brother leader believes that the Gulf region is heading toward a military confrontation between the United States and Iraq, he said: "Personally speaking, I see no problem between Saddam Husayn and the U.S. President." During this interview, broadcast live yesterday, the brother leader stressed that there are no justifications for a confrontation between the United States and Iraq.

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi announced that Muslims in all parts of the world would declare jihad [holy war] if the holy places were subjected to any foreign aggression.

In reply to a question by French TV 5 last night, he said that if there was foreign aggression against the holy places, Muslims would declare jihad, which is their duty.

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said that when the United States attacked Libya in 1986 it lied to the world when it said that Libya had attacked [word indistinct] in several places in the world.

In an interview carried by the French TV 5 network, the brother leader stated that it is now clear that those words were lies. He told TV 5 that there is no hostility between the United States and Iraq. He said that the United States does not accuse Iraq of having attacked it; therefore, what is the justification for the confrontation between Iraq and the United States?

Concerning a question related to the serious threat of armed confrontation in the Arab Gulf region, the leader said we live in a mad world. If we are living in the world of the jungle [words indistinct] however, if we are living in a civilized world, such problems could be solved in accordance with the charters of the UN and the Arab League. He wondered about the relationship between Bush and Saddam Husayn.

The brother leader of the revolution stated that he is not satisfied with the prospects for peace in the region.

He stressed that we live in a world devoid of human values; it has become a mad world. There is concentration of forces, there is an attempt to liquidate the United Nations, and there is an attempt to impose a superpower's will on the world.

Al-Qadhdhafi Discusses 'Useless' U.S. Behavior

LD1908094890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0910 GMT
19 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, 19 August 1990, JANA.— The brother leader of the revolution made a statement to JANA today, the text of which follows:

I am still drawing the attention of the world...it is not up to America or other states of the world to implement Article 42 of the UN charter. Only the UN Security Council has such power, and it can implement it with UN forces which come under the command of the UN Security Council and its military staff committee...Any other behavior is considered a disgraceful violation of the UN charter and a naked aggression...Thus the behavior of the United States and its allies in blockading Iraq and using force to implement the blockade is nothing but useless behavior hampering the UN Security Council's Resolutions 660, 661 and 662.

King Husayn Telephones Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1908124990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1240 GMT
19 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Aug (JANA)—King Husayn of Jordan today spoke on the telephone to the brother commander of the Revolution.

Sudan's General Al-Bashir Arrives 20 Aug

Stresses Arab Interests

LD2008190790 Tripoli JANA in English 1711 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal 20 [20 Aug] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Lt-Gen. Al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in Sudan, and his accompanying delegation have arrived this afternoon in Great al-Jamahiriyah.

They were welcomed by Col. Abu Bakir Yunis al-Jabir and by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture, the secretary of the affairs of the Arab Maghreb Union in the General People's Committee, a number of officers of the armed people and the ambassador and members of the Sudanese Embassy in Great al-Jamahiriyah.

Lt. Gen Al-Bashir, commenting to JANA has pointed out that this visit to Great al-Jamahiriyah comes within the framework of consultations on matters relating to the Arab homeland which is going through a grave difficult situation and a great danger threatening its present and future.

He has stressed the necessity of surmounting this difficult time within an Arab framework as the Arabs are the most qualified for solving their problems by themselves.

He has added that the others are only looking after their own interests. Definitely these interests contradict those of the Arab nation.

Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2008213390 Tripoli Television Service
in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Excerpts] The brother leader of the revolution this evening received Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, Sudanese Revolution Council [RCC] chairman.

A working session was held between the brother leader of the revolution and Lt. Gen. 'Ali attended by Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis al-Jabir.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Basir, the Sudanese RCC chairman and an accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the great Jamahiriyyah. Col. Abu Bakr Yunis al-Jabir was at the head of those who welcomed him. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir made a statement to JANA:

[Begin al-Bashir recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

This visit comes within the framework of consultation we have always been accustomed to hold with the brothers in the Libyan leadership on the important issues whether bilateral issues or issues of concern to the Arab homeland.

Truly, these days the Arab homeland is passing through a great plight and enormous danger, which might threaten our present time and our future. Therefore, we had to move and consult and talk so that we can get out of this crisis.

Naturally, we are agreed the solution should be within an Arab framework; we are still trying this—that is—that the solution be within an Arab framework, because we as Arabs should be more aware of our problems than anyone else and more capable than anyone else of solving them, because others do not seek anything other than their own interests, and definitely these interests are not in harmony with the Arab interests. All our concern and our hope is that we should find a way out of this issue, God willing. [end recording]

Al-Qadhdhafi Holds Press Conference 20 Aug

LD2108094990 Tripoli JANA in English 0810 GMT
21 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The leader of the revolution held an international press conference yesterday which was attended by a great number of correspondents of international T.V. and radio stations, press and news agencies from all over the world.

Mauritania

Government Praises Iraqi Initiative on Iran

AB1708195390 Paris AFP in French 2157 GMT
17 Aug 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 16 Aug (AFP)—The Mauritanian Government yesterday expressed happiness with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's initiative toward Iran by recognizing the international border between the two countries and by proposing the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Iran and the exchange of war prisoners.

In a communique issued last night, Nouakchott believed that this initiative "will restore peace and concord between the two brotherly and neighboring Muslim countries." Mauritania broke off diplomatic relations with Iran in 1986 in support of Iraq.

Various Mauritanian political and trade union groups have continued to demonstrate their solidarity for Iraq and its president, who has been described in Nouakchott as a "symbol of glory of the Arab nation."

In a communique made public today in Nouakchott, the Nasserian Nationalist Group (GNN), which, together with the Democratic National Movement (MND), forms the Mauritanian Workers Union (UTM), believed that the "international community will not allow itself to be deceived by the perfidious pretense of the United States and their acolytes of defending international law, as that country has continued to protect the occupation of Arab lands by the Zionists.

"By grouping themselves against Iraq, the United States and the West are actually trying to weaken Iraq, which today represents the Arab nation's hope to recover its rights and to master its force and its prosperity," the communique added. It also recalled Baghdad's support to Nouakchott in its conflict against Senegal "in conformity with the call to duty."

Other leaflets were also published by banned groups such as the Ba'th movement (pro-Iraqi) and the Islamic Movement in Mauritania, which called for a holy war against "the miscreant (American) forces that have stained Islam's holy place."

Morocco

Hassan Addresses Nation 20 Aug on Gulf Crisis

LD2108020990 Rabat RTM Television Network
in Arabic 2145 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Address to the nation by King Hassan II; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] Praise be to God, prayers and peace be upon our master, the messenger of God, his family, and companions.

My dear people, every year on 20 August, you and I are accustomed to meet to exchange ideas, to discuss matters that concern us or matters that we need to study together, and to achieve their aims. [passage omitted]

How many times did we say in our youth that we were looking forward to the day when the sun of Arab unity would rise to give us light, and for us, from the [Atlantic] ocean to the Gulf, to embrace in order to outline plans for the future, to raise the Arabs' head, and to make the Arab feel honored, not for his wealth or for his gas; but because he has been able to link his present with his past. [passage omitted]

There is great sorrow in our hearts when we see what is surrounding the Arab family. I do not want to make the picture look bleaker than it is, and I do not want to have differences with myself or contradict my nature which is optimistic. However, unless optimism is put into the context of reality it becomes dangerous, because there would only be a small difference left between it and dreaming.

The crisis through which the Arab homeland and Arab peoples are passing is the most dangerous crisis in their lives. None of us, irrespective of our knowledge or analytical capabilities, can predict the future. Some see the future as black and bleak, while some see it as merely turbulent. However, no one sees this future as promising, sound, and healthy. [passage omitted]

My dear people, we should once again don our nationalist, not our Moroccan, but our Arab nationalist cloak so that we can reconcile our brothers and remain with legality. Thus, Morocco will, as always, remain the country of meetings and the homeland of brotherhood.

Since God the Almighty put me on the throne of my glorious predecessors, you can see that all the conferences which were held in our country, Morocco, had been conferences of reconciliation, brotherhood, optimism, and constructive work. We should, therefore, be prophets of tomorrow and not prophets of today or yesterday. We should treat the wounds; we should comfort the wounded; we should treat the hearts and souls. To be sure, this is a difficult task, because in some places hatred and exchanges or threats have reached their zenith. So, will our memory rise to the level of our existence? If we desire that, then our ability to forget should be bigger, greater, and broader than our ability to remember.

My dear people, on this blessed and happy day, without which we would not have been enjoying the joys of independence and sovereignty; on the occasion of this happy day, I was determined to address you on very important internal affairs. However, undoubtedly you are like me. The bitterness of the events experienced by our nation makes us unable to discuss any other subject, or to talk about anything else. We ask God to melt down this deadly killer frost which has been poured on us from the ocean to the Gulf. We ask God to put out this fire which we are afraid might burn the dry and the green. We ask God to provide us with wisdom, sanity, and levelheadedness so that we will not let loose our ruthlessness and so that we will not listen to those who want to get us embroiled. [passage omitted]

King, Spanish Premier Discuss Gulf Crisis

LD2008161290 Rabat MAP in English 1239 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 20 (MAP)—King Hassan II received Sunday afternoon at the Royal Palace of Skhirat, summer resort to the south of Rabat, Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez who was accompanied by Spain's ambassador to Rabat.

Gonzalez, who left Morocco later in the afternoon at the end of a five day private visit, held a news conference at the Rabat-Sale Airport wherein he pointed out that Morocco and Spain are both animated by "a firm determination" to promote the steady and friendly relations binding them.

The two neighbouring countries share a common responsibility in a zone as important as the Mediterranean at the economic, political and strategic levels, Gonzalez said, underlining the two sides' willingness to consolidate their relations in matters of bilateral cooperation and of security in the Mediterranean.

He said his meeting with King Hassan II provided opportunity to stress the need to promote a new cooperation dynamics in light of the changes that affected east-west relations. He noted that given their geographical location, the two countries are called to examine all forms of cooperation. However, he added that cooperation in a so sensitive area should not be limited to a bilateral context but should have a multilateral dimension.

The Spanish prime minister said he reviewed with the sovereign bilateral relations as well as preparations for the upcoming Moroccan-Spanish summit scheduled for next November in Rabat. This summit, he said, will be preceded by the visit Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed will pay to Madrid in the near future.

As to the Gulf crisis, Gonzalez said the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is "a violation" of international law. After he pointed out that Morocco and Spain have similar stands on the conflict, Gonzalez called for the return to the status quo ante in Kuwait.

Regarding the dispatching of a Spanish contingent to the Gulf, Gonzalez said the issue will be debated during the [words indistinct] Union of Western Europe due in Paris Tuesday. The Union, gathering nine countries, is the European body that has competence in defense matters.

The Spanish media of the week-end largely commented on the prime minister's visit to Morocco and the opportunity it provides him to discuss with the sovereign all aspects of the Gulf conflict.

"The opinions and data provided by the sovereign will be of great use to Gonzalez", "the prime minister will learn a great deal on the Gulf crisis from his talks with King Hassan II", the Spanish media stated inter alia.

Hassan Receives UAE Oil Minister 20 Aug

LD2008153190 Rabat MAP in English 1234 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 20 (MAP)—King Hassan II received Sunday afternoon at the Skhirat Royal Palace, summer resort to the south of Rabat, Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources of the United Arab Emirates Mani' bin-Sa'id al-'Utaybah.

The audience was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali and Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri.

Soviet Official Receives Outgoing Envoy

LD1708134290 Rabat MAP in English 1253 GMT
17 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 17 (MAP)—The latest developments of the situation in the Gulf were reviewed at a meeting here Thursday between Vice-President of the Supreme Soviet M. Nichanov [name and title as received] and Morocco's Ambassador to Moscow Rafik Haddaoui who had been recently appointed minister in charge of the affairs of the Moroccan community settled abroad.

During the meeting held on the occasion of the end of Haddaoui's mission in the Soviet Union, the two sides underlined their respective countries' stand regarding the Gulf crisis. Nichanov reaffirmed in this respect that the USSR condemns the Iraqi aggression and stresses the need to reinstate legality and the legitimate power in Kuwait while Haddaoui recalled that Morocco had strongly denounced the military invasion of Kuwait.

The two sides also reviewed bilateral relations that they described as 'excellent' and underlined the need to intensify further political consultations between Morocco and the USSR.

Socialist Opposition Issues Communique on Gulf

LD1608144290 Rabat MAP in English 1353 GMT
16 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 16 (MAP)—The Political Bureau of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP-Socialist Opposition) has denounced the concentration of foreign troops in the Gulf and particularly that of U.S. troops.

In a communique circulated today by the party's daily AL-ITTihad AL-ICHTIRAKI, the Politbureau pointed out that Iraqi proposals "can be considered as a platform for a peaceful and comprehensive settlement of the Gulf crisis for they open the way to reconsider the situation in Kuwait with the Security Council and the Arab League supervising the respect of commitments."

The USFP which followed with "deep worry, awareness, wisdom and responsibility the new and complex crisis" in the Arab Gulf hopes that the Maghreb, at the official and popular levels, will undertake practical and efficient initiatives for the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Gulf and the re-establishment of peace in the region, the communique said.

The party calls on Maghreban leaders to join efforts and conduct a coordinated action for a comprehensive settlement of all the Middle East issues and particularly those of the Gulf and of Palestine.

Hassan Receives French Special Envoy Mauroy

LD1408170690 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
0600 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] King Hassan II received late this morning at the royal palace in Skhirat Pierre Mauroy, the envoy of the French President to His Majesty the king.

The king was flanked by Crown Prince Sidi Moulay Mohamed and Prince Moulay Rachid.

The french ambassador was accompanied by the french ambassador in Rabat and two close advisers.

The audience was attended by Ahmed Reda Guedira, His Majesty's adviser; Abdellatif Filali, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation; and Driss Basri, minister of interior and information.

Sudan

Nation Warns U.S. Against Stopping Ships

Foreign Ministry Statement

EA1908204890 Khartoum SUNA in English
1720 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 19th August (SUNA)—The Foreign Ministry has condemned the interception of American warships for a Sudanese ship in the Gulf of al-Aqabah, Jordan, Saturday. A statement by the Foreign Ministry Sunday said the U.S. warship action has no legal or moral foundation whatever. It said the Sudanese Council of Ministers has rejected the principle of searching the ship or confining its captain to load or unload whatever the [word indistinct] given the fact that no blockade (?was decided) on Sudan from an international body. The statement said the Council of Ministers has denounced the action of the United States troops vis-a-vis the ship.

The Foreign Ministry's statement said the Sudanese ship was carrying about 200 tonnes of steel and other goods which, being in hurry to evacuate citizens, it could not unload prior to its departure for al-Aqabah Gulf, Jordan. It said when entering al-Aqabah Port American warships intercepted the ship and forced it away from the port. It added that U.S. helicopters flew over the ship instructing it to move farther. It said the ship was now anchored at some (?140 km) south of al-Aqabah waiting for further instructions. [Khartoum SUNA in French at 1630 GMT reports that the minister of transport held a news conference and stated that the Sudanese ship, the Dunqulah, was at present 110 miles south of al-Aqabah. The Sudanese in Aqaba are "in very poor condition", and this requires taking "necessary and urgent measures" on their behalf.]

Justice Minister Statement

EA2008203090 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic
1028 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 20 Aug (SUNA)—The minister of state for Sudanese expatriates, Mr. Sa'id 'Uthman Mahjub, left Khartoum this morning for the Kingdom of Jordan to arrange the evacuation of citizens awaiting repatriation through the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah. Their number is estimated at 600 who have arrived from Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers has approved informing the U.S. Administration about Sudan's protest against this incident and approaching the UN secretary general for an interpretation of the Security Council resolution on the economic boycott of Iraq and the measures embraced by it. The Council of Ministers also approved addressing a memorandum to the chairman of the Security Council in this regard and asking him to circulate it to all the member states of the Security Council and the UN General Assembly.

Brigadier (legal) Ahmad Mahmud Hasan, minister of justice and attorney general, had described the prevention of the S.S. Dunqullah from transporting Sudanese nationals as inhuman, illegal, and a crime against humanity barred by charters protecting human rights. He said the steps taken against the ship in the light of the Security Council resolution were directed against the Arab League and the OAU. He said Sudan would inform these two organizations that this American act [words indistinct] by their charters.

Paris Embassy Communique

AU2008150690 Paris AFP in English
1442 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Paris, Aug 20 (AFP)—Sudan warned the United States on Monday [20 August] that there would be "grave consequences" for U.S. relations with Sudan if U.S. warships continue stopping Sudanese commercial vessels.

The warning, in a communique issued by the Sudanese Embassy here, came after a U.S. Navy ship stopped a Sudanese cargo ship, the Dongola, in the Gulf of 'Aqabah as it was heading for the Jordanian port to pick up Sudanese refugees.

The statement said Sudan "denounces" U.S. interference with its shipping and demanded that no more Sudanese ships be stopped by U.S. naval forces in the region to enforce a trade embargo on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait.

The Dongola must be "immediately allowed to continue its humanitarian mission" aimed at evacuating Sudanese who have left Kuwait through Jordan and are stranded in 'Aqabah, the communique said.

The communique said the Sudanese Government had decided that the Dongola should stay where it is until the affair is resolved, and reminded the U.S. that United

Nations Resolution 661 imposes sanctions on Iraq, not Sudan "or any other country other than Iraq."

Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul said in Khartoum Sunday that the ship was carrying 200 tons of steel when it was stopped by the U.S. Navy because it had been unloading the metal at Port Sudan when it received immediate orders to sail to 'Aqabah.

A Jordanian source said Sunday that Amman was also considering filing a protest about the U.S. action to the U.N. Security Council.

Al-Bashir Welcomes Iraqi Initiative on Iran

EA1708203090 Omdurman Domestic Service
in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Sudan yesterday welcomed the new Iraqi initiative ending the bitter dispute between the two Muslim neighbors, Iraq and Iran. Lieutenant General 'Omar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council (RCC), said the initiative of the Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn, had neutralized the hotbed of tension and dispute in the Gulf region.

The chairman of the RCC said: This initiative accords with our thesis that conflicts between others be resolved in the Islamic Arab framework. It will benefit security and stability in the region. His excellency added: Whatever the causes which brought about the entry of foreign forces into the Arab region might have been, security and stability will not be upheld except by the departure of those forces. If there is an Arab state or several seeking serious guarantees for their security, then the Arab framework always remains the most suitable, even if the participation of Arab and Islamic forces is involved. Sudan is prepared to participate in these forces provided that a complete withdrawal of foreign forces and fleets from the whole region takes place. There is no objection to the commands of such Arab and Islamic forces being under an umbrella to be agreed upon, such as the Islamic Conference Organization.

Official Explains Arab League Resolution Stance

EA1908124090 Omdurman Domestic Service
in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] His excellency the justice minister and attorney general has issued a statement concerning Sudan's legal stance toward the conflict in the Gulf and the Arab League's resolution, which was approved by some countries and rejected by others. In the statement he said that the position taken by the Sudanese delegation headed by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, was in full harmony with the Arab League Charter in that it was clear from the very beginning that there was no unanimous agreement on sending a joint Arab force to the Gulf, whereas the sixth clause of the Arab League Charter specified that in case

of an act of aggression or anticipated aggression by an Arab state against another, both of them being Arab League members, the state against which the aggression or the threat of aggression was mounted had the right to call for an immediate meeting of the council [as heard] at which the council would determine the measures necessary to alleviate the aggression and a unanimous resolution would be issued. If the aggression came from one among the League's states on which unanimity did not count (?toward) the state which launched the aggression. [sentence as heard].

He said that it was clear from this clause that the resolution which had been issued lacked unanimous agreement and that His Excellency President Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir was sagacious when he opted, from the very beginning, to work for reaching a unanimous agreement rather than issuing a resolution which would be questionable from the legal viewpoint. He said: we hope that his excellency the president will be successful in his continuous contacts with his brothers, the kings and the presidents, so as to arrive at a unanimous formula for a resolution which will be agreed upon by all, thus corresponding with the spirit and the letter of the Arab League Charter.

Al-Bashir, Al-Sabah Envoy Discuss Gulf

EA1908163990 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic
1020 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 19th August (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, met here today Mr. Muhammad Nassar al-Jum'an, who was carrying to his excellency a message from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah on the situation in the Gulf region. His Excellency Lt. Gen 'Umar reaffirmed Sudan's firm position, which calls for containing the problem within the Arab framework and halting military escalation and [words indistinct] foreign troops from the region.

Al-Bashir Receives Kim Il-song Message

EA1708060890 Khartoum SUNA in English 1705 GMT
16 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 16 August (SUNA)—Revolution Command Council Chairman General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir has received a verbal message from President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Kim Il-song dealing with bilateral relations and ways of their (?promotion). The message was conveyed today by the Korean ambassador to Sudan. The ambassador told reporters that he discussed with General al-Bashir issues of mutual concern and cooperation between the two countries in all domains.

Tunisia

Kuwaiti Crown Prince Holds News Conference

LD2008134690 Tunis TAP in Arabic
1240 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 20 Aug (TAP)—Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, held a news conference yesterday at the end of his visit to the Tunisian Republic, stating that he was happy to meet with His Excellency Ben Ali, the president of the Republic, with whom he made a comprehensive and detailed examination of the situation in the Gulf. He pointed out that His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali reaffirmed to him that Tunisia is still committed to its stance of rejecting occupation and supporting legitimacy. Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah reviewed the stages of the conflict between Kuwait and Iraq since 17 July, asserting during his analysis of the situation in the region that the Kuwaiti people will intensify (?their resistance) and urge support, consolidation, and aid from their brothers and friends.

Replying to a question on reports that a number of Arab countries are coming up with initiatives to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis within an Arab framework, he insisted: "We (?welcome) any initiative as long as it is based upon the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from the Kuwaiti territories and noninterference in our internal affairs." In the same context, replying to a question on the possibility of a Palestinian-Arab initiative to resolve the crisis, he affirmed that he does not personally know during his current tour to (?a number of Arab countries) of any initiative or formula aiming at the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

President Receives Sudan's Al-Bashir

LD2008125990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali conferred at the Palace of the Republic this afternoon with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Council for National Salvation, who arrived in Tunis this afternoon at Tunis-Carthage International Airport on a working visit to Tunisia. [passage omitted]

Ben Ali, Klibi Discuss Arab Summit, Gulf Crisis

LD1308145490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 13 Aug 90

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali today received at the presidential palace in Carthage Mr. Chedli Klibi, the Arab League secretary general. We have learned from an informed source at the presidency that the audience dwelt on the circumstances surrounding the holding of the emergency Arab summit in Cairo and the development of the Gulf crisis.

Karoui Receives Kuwaiti Prime Minister

LD1808164190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] The Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, arrived at Tunis-Carthage international airport this afternoon on a visit to Tunisia.

He was welcomed at the airport by Mr. Hamed Karoui, the prime minister, and 'Abd al-Muhsin Nasir Al-Ji'ani, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Tunis.

National Security Secretary Relieved of Duties

LD2008194890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] The Presidency of the Republic issued the following communique: Mr. Mohamed Larbi Mahjoubi, secretary of state at the Interior Ministry in charge of national security, was relieved from his functions.

Government Announces Increased Food Prices

LD0908041190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Economy and Finance announces that according to resolutions to be published the prices of the following materials at the various distribution stages have been fixed: oil, semi-skimmed milk, pasteurized milk, pasta, semolina, bread, and flour.

The producers, wholesalers, retailers and all those who possess these products, except bread, are obliged to declare their stocks and the quantities on their way to their stores beginning 9 August 1990 at 0000 hours. These declarations should be submitted within 72 hours at the latest to the finance department of their region or at the closest police or national guard station to their selling point.

The declared quantities will lead to producers paying the difference stemming from the new prices to the finance department for the benefit of the general subsidies fund within one month. [passage omitted]

In spite of efforts to control subsidy costs the intervention of the general subsidies fund remains a heavy burden on the state budget. The costs are estimated at approximately 345 million Tunisian dinars in 1990 compared to resources which do not exceed 300 million dinars.

In considering the pressures on the state budget this year as a result of dealing with the damages caused by the floods and of financing the increase in civil service wages it is necessary to introduce partial alterations to the prices of some subsidized materials and to continue to control the costs of these materials in order to avoid allocating additional resources for consumption at the expense of development.

On this basis, and taking into consideration the constants of the economy policy, which are basically represented by preserving the buying abilities of the poor classes, the decided alterations have taken into consideration the nature of the products and their importance for these classes. The increments in the materials widely consumed, i.e. bread, semolina, pasta and milk, were restricted to between 10 and 20 millims. Therefore the majority of the materials, in spite of the decided increments, remain greatly subsidized by the general subsidies fund in excess of 60 percent of their selling prices.

In considering the financial ramifications of these increments on a family of medium income consisting of five to six persons which are estimated at approximately 2,200 dinars a month, it has been decided to adopt accompanying measures for the benefit of the poor families in order to avoid the effects of altering the prices on their purchasing power. These accompanying measures are:

Increasing grants to poor families by 2,500 dinars a month. This measure will benefit 100,000 families.

Increasing the wages of [words indistinct] workers by 200 millims a day. This measure will benefit approximately 50,000 workers.

All the necessary steps have been taken in order to implement these accompanying measures for the benefit of these poor families beginning 1 August 1990 [as heard].

The aim in the short and medium term is not to reduce the intervention of the general subsidies fund, because of the great social role it plays, but only to deal with the inflation of costs and to keep them within reasonable limits by controlling the costs of producing and distributing the subsidized materials and directing the subsidies toward the deserving classes.

It is known that the income from increasing the prices will not exceed 15 million dinars during 1990. A part of it will be allocated for the benefit of the poor families within the framework of the accompanying measures.

Bahrain**Facilities Reportedly Offered to UK Forces**

NC1808061190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0400 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Alan Clark, British minister of state for defense procurement, has stated that Bahrain has agreed to provide facilities to the British Air Force units currently deployed in the Gulf.

Amir, U.S. Admiral Discuss Gulf Situation

NC2008114990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0935 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Manama, 20 Aug (WAKH)—Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah and His Highness Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah today received Indian Energy and Civil Aviation Minister Arif Muhammad Khan. [passage omitted]

His Highness the Amir of Bahrain and His Highness the Prime Minister also received Admiral Henry Moore, commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and commander of the U.S. Seventh Fleet in the Pacific [name, titles as received]. They reviewed current developments in the Gulf and the international situation in light of the crisis resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah; Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah; Shaykh 'Ali Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah, assistant under secretary for immigration and passports at the Interior Ministry; and U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain Charles Hostler also attended the meeting.

Kuwait**French Radio Reports Iraqi Minelaying in Kuwait**

AU1908124890 Paris AFP in English 0106 GMT
19 Aug 90

[Text] Paris, Aug 19 (AFP)—Iraqi soldiers have laid mines at oil terminal facilities at Al-Ahmadi in Kuwait and at electricity generating stations and water stations serving the capital, Kuwait City, French radio reports said overnight Saturday [18 August], citing oil industry workers who have left.

The workers also told the correspondent of Radio France International (RFI) in Aqaba, Jordan, that steel hawsers had been stretched across Al-Ahmadi port. They added that foreign nationals had in recent days been taken on to Kuwaiti oil industry sites aboard a convoy of some 30 lorries (trucks).

Minister on Reorganization of Troops Abroad

NC1808182790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1755 GMT
18 Aug 90

[Text] Paris, 18 Aug (WAKH)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that the Kuwaiti Army troops abroad will soon be reorganized and that Kuwaiti aircraft are all safe in Saudi Arabia.

KUNA reports that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad met last night with the Kuwaiti community in Paris and commended the resistance being offered by Kuwaiti men and women in confronting the Iraqi aggression and occupation and [words indistinct]. He added that regardless of the negative stand adopted by certain Arab countries, the Kuwaitis have received support from noble Arabs who believe in their Arabism.

In this regard, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad praised Egypt and the Gulf Cooperation Council states which support Kuwait in all areas. He also praised the communities which are effectively participating in the resistance to the occupation regardless of their governments' political stands.

KUNA Claims Stepped Up Kuwaiti Resistance

LD1808162690 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 1530 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Kuwaitis have stepped up their campaign of resistance, killing two Iraqi soldiers and disabling an oil tanker and military vehicles, the Kuwaiti News Agency claimed tonight.

"Kuwaitis are flatly rejecting all military measures adopted by the Iraqi invading force, including the imposition of a curfew," the KUNA agency said.

It quoted French sources who had escaped to Saudi Arabia as saying resistance fighters "had attacked an Iraqi tanker and had recently managed to kill two Iraqi soldiers".

It added: Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti resistance had burned a number of Iraqi military vehicles on August 12 and 13.

"The latest such incident happened opposite to Al-Hadi Hospital in Jabrria area."

Resistance Attacks Iraqi Forces Headquarters

LD1808224290 Riyadh Television Service
in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Kuwait Radio announced this evening that one of the Kuwaiti resistance heroes stormed al-Hadi hospital in al-Jabiriyah district this evening in a car loaded with explosives.

The operation resulted in his martyrdom and a large number of casualties among the Iraqi soldiers, dead and injured, because they have occupied the hospital and made it their headquarters.

AFP Describes Resistance Activities in Kuwait

NC2008090890 Paris AFP in English 0832 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 20 (AFP)-Iraqi troops controlling Kuwait are being harassed by an organized resistance combining night ambushes, bomb attacks and non-violent protest, a prominent Kuwaiti academic said here after a gruelling escape from the distressed emirate.

"There's a growing militant resistance. They are attacking army vehicles, blowing up Iraqi cars and they are killing soldiers in ambushes at night," said the 44-year-old Kuwait University political science professor. Iraqi troops, cracking down on all forms of resistance, have opened fire on at least two groups of demonstrators in the capital Kuwait City, killing three women in one incident and a 19-year-old man in another, he disclosed.

The professor, who declined to be identified saying he feared for relatives at home, said students were a key force in the resistance. They had covered walls with slogans denouncing Iraqi President Saddam Hussayn, pasted up pictures of the exiled Kuwaiti Amir, hoisted the Kuwaiti flag, distributed anti-Iraqi leaflets and organized "praying and screaming" at midnight.

Qatar Radio reported Sunday [19 August] that a suicide bomber had driven a car full of explosives into a Kuwait City hospital that had been taken over by Iraqi troops for use as a barracks. Several people were killed or injured in the blast.

The professor, who left Kuwait by car Thursday [16 August], said Iraqi troops had made mass arrests to quash resistance and were intimidating Kuwaitis by "blowing up their houses." "There is no personal security. Everybody is under Iraqi threat all of the time," he recalled.

"There have been many cases of rape, mostly of foreigners. They raped them even in hospitals," he said. "Female patients are warned by doctors to stay in the hospital and female physicians hesitate to go to work because of the harassment."

He said Iraqi troops, aided by militiamen including Palestinians, enforced a night curfew, although the city even in daytime was a "ghost town." When he left, water and electricity were still available, although drinking water could only be had at supermarkets, which at certain times of the day were filled with residents trying to replenish dwindling food stocks.

The professor escaped in a convoy of 19 cars through the desert, taking 15 hours to reach the Saudi border, 187 kilometers (112 miles) away, as vehicles plowed through sand dunes to avoid troops. Only six cars made it to the checkpoint. He reached the United Arab Emirates by road Saturday, joining some 5,000 other Kuwaitis stranded in the country and being housed and fed by the UAE Government.

Kuwaitis here, cut off from events because phone links have been severed, are circulating videotapes showing street graffiti, burning buildings and other displays of resistance in Kuwait, against a background of Iraqi armour. The tapes are broadcast across the Gulf by a Kuwaiti television station based in Saudi Arabia. Resisters have also set up a clandestine radio station in the Saudi desert, broadcasting anti-Iraqi slogans to those still trapped in Kuwait.

Foreign Minister on Resistance, Foreign Armies

NC2008121990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah has expressed fears of an Israeli strike at Jordan. He said that the geography of the Arab world might change following the occupation of Kuwait and intervention of foreign armies.

In an interview with AL-NAHAR, he said: The Arab countries are now divided, so what do they expect from others? The attack on Kuwait meant not only the occupation of Kuwait, but more than that. He added that we should not make a comparison between Lebanon and the situation in Kuwait, and expressed his belief that Lebanon's problem stems from within the country rather than from outside it.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0919 GMT on 20 Aug carries a Beirut-dated item on the Kuwaiti minister's interview, adding: "The Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister stressed his country's determination to resist the Iraqi occupation from inside and outside the country and said that resistance in Kuwait is taking shape and will continue to work to remove this occupation. He also stressed that the majority of the Arab countries support Kuwait. He added that he found full support from officials in the countries he had visited, which included France, Britain, and the United States. He added that these countries have sent forces to the region because they believe in principles, not interests."]

'Reorganized' AL-QABAS Reappears in London

NC2108094890 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
13 Aug 90 p 11

[Text] London—from AL-QUDS special correspondent—The international newspaper AL-QABAS has resumed publication from offices in London and Marseilles as of yesterday. The newspaper had suspended its operations on 3 August.

The newspaper has been reorganized, with Dr. Muhammad al-Rumayhi replacing Muhammad al-Jasim al-Saqr as chief editor.

AL-QUDS has learned that the deposed Kuwaiti Government has bought the newspaper to express its official positions.

Al-Rumayhi was chief editor of the magazine AL-'ARABI, which used to be published by the Kuwaiti Information Ministry.

Saudi Arabia

Kuwaiti Embassy Says Iraqis 'Liquidated' 'Ali

LD2108002790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2240 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 20 Aug (SPA)—A statement issued by the Kuwaiti Embassy in Amman today revealed that the so-called 'Ala' Husayn 'Ali who was installed by the Iraqi regime as head of what it termed the provisional government in Kuwait has been liquidated by the Iraqi regime for fear that the mercenary might expose the aims of the Iraqi regime and reveal the secrets of the invasion operation which he had led.

The statement also said that a large demonstration by women was staged in Kuwait the night before last which demanded the return of legitimacy to Kuwait. Iraqi forces opened fire on this demonstration; four women died and eight others, who were wounded, are now in the Great Mubarak Hospital in Kuwait receiving treatment.

The statement added that Iraqi occupation forces destroyed all the central markets in Kuwait and looted their goods. The statement of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Amman also touched on the recent initiative of the Iraqi regime and said that this initiative is no more than an operation to divert attention from the basic issue which is the immediate and complete withdrawal from all Kuwaiti territory, and a return to legitimacy.

The statement strongly denounced the Iraqi regime's relocation of foreign nationals at all its installations.

King Fahd Receives Defense Secretary Cheney

LD2008224490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2225 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Jeddah, 20 Aug (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud today at his office in al-Salam palace received U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, Uthman al-Hamid, assistant minister of defense and aviation for military affairs, and Charles Freeman, U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom.

Kuwaitis Asked To Register With Local Offices

LD1908082590 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] The Interior Ministry has called on all Kuwaiti citizens and nationals from other states who are now in the Kingdom as a result of the current circumstances in Kuwait to call on the local government of the region in

which they are located in order to facilitate their residence and organize their affairs. This came in an announcement issued by the Interior Ministry. Here is the text of the announcement:

The Interior Ministry announces to all nationals of the State of Kuwait and nationals of other states who have arrived from Kuwait and are now in the Kingdom as a result of the current circumstances in Kuwait that out of the desire of the government of the Kingdom to arrange their affairs and prevent them from being questioned by the competent authorities [words indistinct], the Interior Ministry hopes that they will call on the local government in the region where they are to complete the required procedural measures to facilitate their residence and organize their affairs, beginning Monday 20 August 1990.

Oil Minister's Statement on Quota Clarified

LD1808211190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1950 GMT
18 Aug 90

[Text] Riyadh 18 Aug, SPA—A responsible source at the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources today told SPA:

The report carried this evening by the UNITED PRESS, quoting the minister of petroleum and mineral resources to the effect that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is threatening to produce two million barrels a day above its quota, lacks precision in understanding what Minister Nazir meant. He said, in answer to a question on added production capacity: The current production of OPEC is more than two million barrels a day less than the ceiling decided by the organization, and the objective of the call for a conference of the organization was to examine this urgent issue.

Nazim Comments on Increasing Oil Production

NC1908145090 Paris AFP in English 1215 GMT
19 Aug 90

[Text] Riyadh, Aug 19 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia is capable of making up for the loss of half the oil production from Kuwait and Iraq, where exports are the target of an international embargo, the Saudi daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported Sunday [19 August].

It quoted Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir as saying that Saudi Arabia could increase production by two million barrels a day (b/d), almost half the 4.6 million b/d that represented the combined production of Iraq and Kuwait before the embargo.

But Mr. Nazir said his country was incapable of filling the void on its own. He said Venezuela and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) could each boost their production by half a million b/d, with the balance to be provided by other oil exporting countries.

Venezuela has said it is prepared to increase oil production by 500,000 b/d for export to the United States in order to offset the effects of a United Nations trade

embargo against Iraq, approved August 6 to protest the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait four days earlier.

Seven of the 13 OPEC members have said they would attend a special meeting to consider the consequences of the embargo, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo said Saturday [18 August].

Saudi Arabia—which officially requested a special session of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)—and Venezuela consider that such a meeting is indispensable and want OPEC's consent to increase oil production, officials in Caracas said. Other OPEC members object.

But Mr. Nazir stressed that no decision had been reached on the convocation of such a meeting.

Iraq has opposed the session while Indonesia has said it fears it could turn into a "confrontation" between the OPEC member countries.

In a related development, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama met late Saturday with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and discussed the Gulf crisis with senior officials in the western Saudi city of Jeddah, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

Saudi Arabia on Thursday [16 August] assured Tokyo it would maintain the same level of its oil exports to Japan. Mr. Nazir had denied reports of an export reduction of 16 percent, representing 100,000 barrels a day, starting in September.

Report on Exceeding of OPEC Quota Denied

LD2008163990 Vienna OPECNA in English 1605 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Riyadh, 20 Aug. 90 (OPECNA)—An official source at the petroleum and mineral resources ministry here has denied as "inaccurate" a report that the Kingdom was threatening to produce two million b/d [barrels per day] of crude above its agreed OPEC quota.

The source explained that the "misreporting" by the news agency concerned was caused by a "misunderstanding" of a statement by the Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral resources, Hisham M. Nazir, who, in reply to a question on the organization's additional production capacity, had replied that the current figure was more than two million b/d lower than the ceiling OPEC had set for itself—22.49 million b/d.

The source, quoted by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), said that the Saudi call for an immediate OPEC meeting was "aimed at reviewing this emergency situation."

Oil Minister Says Market Rise Result of Crisis

LD2008165890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1540 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Jeddah, 20 Aug (SPA)—The minister of petroleum and mineral resources, Hisham Nazir, has said that what is

happening now in the petroleum market has nothing to do with supply and demand but is a result of the fear created by the Gulf crisis. He expressed his hope that the market situation will settle down after the crisis ends.

In a news conference, Minister Nazir added that OPEC countries agreed at their latest meeting on three main points, namely: a daily production ceiling of 22.9 million barrels per day, explaining that this ceiling cannot be achieved now because of a shortage of 4 million barrels per day. The second point agreed upon, he said, was the price of \$21 per barrel, adding, "this was not achieved either because the current prevailing price has reached \$29 per barrel."

The minister of petroleum and mineral resources pointed out that because these two points, production ceiling and prices, have not been observed, instability has occurred in the oil market. He stressed that the instability is not a consequence of market factors but of the Iraqi aggression against the fraternal state of Kuwait. His highness said: "For this reason, the Kingdom has called for the convening of an OPEC meeting to examine this crisis."

His Highness Minister Nazir emphasized that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a sovereign state that cares for its own interests as well as the interests of the Third World states, which suffer more than others from price increases. He said: "If OPEC fails to show interest in these issues, then member states should protect their own interests."

His highness denied that there is any shortage in manpower in Saudi oil installations, stressing that workers are totally loyal in their work. He said: "Arrangements for those who want to visit their families are taking place in normal ways."

His excellency stressed that if the current crisis ends, Iraq withdraws unconditionally, and the legitimate Kuwaiti Government returns, there will be no logical reason for oil prices to continue to rise.

Minister Nazir said: "Some OPEC states should replace the shortage." He pointed out that up to now the OPEC member states have not indicated that they can do so.

His excellency said: "To reduce production by more than what the market can bear will harm OPEC member states because this will encourage activity in other energy resources and will cause an economic recession."

His excellency added that there is no objection to other countries, such as the United States, using their oil reserves in such circumstances.

Hisham Nazir stressed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia alone will not be able to meet the current shortage caused by the present crisis. He said that this matter "is left to a number of producers who have the energy to do so."

His excellency indicated that the current shortage in world market totals at least 4 million barrels per day. He added that "we in fact believe that the shortage could be more than this figure, considering the increased consumption of some countries."

United Arab Emirates

Agreement To Receive 'Arab, Friendly' Forces

NC1908180690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Aug (MENA)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] this evening announced its agreement to receive some Arab and friendly forces on its territory within the framework of the Arab and international efforts to defend the Arab Gulf states.

A responsible source at the UAE Foreign Ministry said that the Emirates' agreement to receive these forces on its territory comes in the wake of the current developments in the Gulf region and is in line with the provisions of the UN and the Arab League Charters, the joint Arab defense agreement, and the economic cooperation agreement among the Arab states. This step is also in line with the UN Security Council resolution concerning the situation in the Gulf region and with implementation of the resolutions of the recent emergency Arab summit conference in Cairo.

Cheney Arrives, Discusses Crisis With President

LD2008111590 Dubayy Domestic Service in English 1030 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Excerpt] U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney arrived today for a visit to the United Arab Emirates. President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al Nuhayyan received Mr. Cheney. They discussed the situation in the region after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and efforts to end the occupation and implement the resolutions of the United Nations and the Arab League. They also discussed the international community's stand in rejecting the Iraqi occupation and restore things to normal in Kuwait. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

Yemen

Officials Back From Iraq Say Saddam Wants Peace

JN2008182490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Brothers Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council, and Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, first deputy prime minister, returned to Sanaa this evening after a visit to fraternal Iraq. Brother Muhammad told SABA: During the visit, we met with President Saddam Husayn and conveyed to him a message from brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. We also relayed to him the popular and official support for Iraq's recent peace initiatives to spare the region war and destruction.

He added: We stressed that our Yemeni people support the Iraqi people and the Arab nation in their rejection of the foreign military presence on Arab territory, interference in Arab affairs, and enforcement of a full blockade, to starve the people of Iraq and extend full hegemony

over the Arab nation's capabilities and oil wealth. We also explained our country's continuing efforts at the Arab and international levels to contain the existing crisis within an Arab and international settlement.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad said that President Saddam Husayn had stressed that Iraq was eager for peace and to avoid war, and that it does not intend to engage in military or political actions against neighboring Arab or Islamic countries, especially fraternal Saudi Arabia. President Saddam Husayn also stressed that the initiative he put forward seeks to solve all problems and conflicts and eliminate sources of tension in the region. He pointed out that Iraq will continue to maintain peace and will respond to Arab and international efforts on the basis of the foreign forces' withdrawal, the lifting of the siege on the Iraqi people, the resolution of the Kuwait affair in an Arab context, and the discussion of all other issues within the framework of the initiative that President Saddam Husayn has announced.

Brothers Salim Salih Muhammad and Dr. Hasan Makki met last night with Iraqi brothers National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, Interior Minister Samir 'Abd-al-Wahhab, and Education Minister 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Izz-al-Din.

Salih Wants Early Withdrawal of Foreign Forces

JN2008063790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has announced that there are Yemeni proposals for solving the crisis in the Arabian Gulf region, which will soon be announced, and that Yemen is still holding negotiations regarding these proposals with a number of fraternal and friendly countries.

This came in an interview with THE WALL STREET JOURNAL in which the brother president affirmed that we all support the Kuwaiti people, along with the rest of the honorable and loyal Arabs, in solving the Arab crisis. He said the Arab nation is capable of handling this situation because it is considered an internal Arab affair.

The brother president affirmed that foreign presence in the Arab region, and in particular in the Gulf and [Arabian] peninsula, causes concern for world security and stability. He said that these forces must leave the Arab region to its people who can solve their problems within the united Arab family. There is no reason whatsoever for a foreign presence.

If the justification is interests, then interests are guaranteed and have not been affected. They are also mutually interlinked interests. This means that there is no justification for their presence with such force in the region.

The brother president affirmed that the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Arab region will restore glory to Arab cohesion and solidarity and will put an end to the

divisions which have taken place in the Arab homeland due to that presence. He said: We hope this takes place as soon as possible.

Addresses Pro-Iraqi Rallies

*JN2108062190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 20 Aug 90*

[Text] Massive popular demonstrations and rallies were held in the streets of Sanaa today in which tens of thousands of people from various popular sectors participated. They flocked to Liberation [al-Tahrir] Square as of early morning in response to the call of the Popular Committee in Support of Iraq and the Arab Nation. The masses carried posters condemning the foreign presence in Arab waters and lands. They shouted slogans expressing our people's support for the political leadership and praising its responsible pan-Arab attitude toward this presence, which threatens the security and safety of the Arab nation and world peace.

The marchers proceeded to the Presidential Palace in roaring human waves led by the Popular Committee members and representatives of the various popular unions and organizations, carrying pictures of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, the late Arab leader Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. They continued to arrive at the palace grounds where brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, delivered a speech in which he stressed that the political leadership will continue

to exert efforts to contain the crisis and resolve it peacefully within the Arab fold and to side with all brothers to reach peaceful solutions.

The committee's statement stressed that the Arab nation and its peoples are capable of facing and overcoming the current ordeal through their belief in the justice of their issues. Thus, they stand, with their belief and stones, in the face of the U.S. and Zionist military arsenal in the occupied Arab territories. So a child in any country can stand firm in the face of the most aggressive invading force, whatever form it takes.

Following the rally, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, met with the members of the Higher Popular Committee for Defending Iraq and the Arab Nation. He stressed to them that our country will continue its endeavors and efforts, along with brothers and friends, to contain this crisis and find an Arab solution that would spare the region and the Arab nation the dangers threatening their security, integrity, and sovereignty as a result of the foreign presence and military buildup in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula.

The committee members expressed their pride in our leadership's political positions which stem from consistent principles and noble pan-Arab affiliation—positions which reflect the true pan-Arab feelings of our people and Arab masses from the Ocean to the Gulf. They stressed that our people, with all their forces and organizations, will remain the strong shield that defends the security and safety of the Yemeni homeland and an honest guardian of the Arab homeland under all conditions.

Information Minister Warns of U.S. Pilots' Fate*LD2108100990 Paris Domestic Service in French
0600 GMT 21 Aug 90*

[Text] [unidentified correspondent] Yesterday Baghdad officially acknowledged its use of foreign citizens stuck in its territory and in Kuwait. Those whom President Bush is now calling hostages are being progressively distributed around Iraqi strategic installations, a fate currently shared by about 200 people—33 French, more than 80 Britons, perhaps 40 Americans, and 11 Germans. Baghdad continues to described these foreigners as guests of Iraq. However, Iraqi officials' tone was raised another notch yesterday evening when Saddam Husayn's information minister granted an interview to TF-1 [Paris Television channel 1]. He referred to the fate U.S. pilots would suffer if their planes were shot down over Iraq:

[Begin Latif Nusayyif Jasim recording in Arabic with super-imposed French translation] On this subject I would like to give a warning to U.S. and foreign pilots. If their planes are shot down over Iraqi territory perhaps our people will go and eat the pilots. They will not live. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The Iraqi information minister added that President Bush is taking the risk of starting a third world war in the Arabian-Persian Gulf.

Cautions Bush on Starting War*JN2108070990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2100 GMT
20 Aug 90*

[Text] Paris, 20 Aug (INA)—French television's channel one (TF-1) aired an interview with Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim tonight. In the interview, Jasim affirmed that foreigners, as was announced, are guests in Iraq. He added that they are not hostages but guests in Iraq with Iraqi families, hosted within the framework of the new situation in Iraq.

Jasim said they are not hostages. He added that they are here because of international political circumstances which prompted us, as His Excellency President Saddam Husayn said in his message yesterday, to keep them here. He added: At any rate, I would like to confirm that they are in good shape, that they are living in safe and peaceful conditions, and that the situation will be different if France decides to immediately lift the blockade.

The culture and information minister indicated that the foreigners' predicament has become difficult because there are threats to their lives, to the lives of Iraqis and foreigners who live in Iraq. He added: These foreign nationals might be preventing the outbreak of war in the region. Thus, they would be rendering a service to all mankind.

In reply to a question on whether Iraq expects a U.S. attack, Latif Nusayyif Jasim said: Certainly. Otherwise, why is this huge buildup of aircraft, warships, and troops? We would like to say firmly that the U.S. presence came in the wake of a conspiracy hatched by the agent Fahd in cooperation with the Americans with

the aim of imposing hegemony over the oil resources. Jasim added: We would like to affirm that we will confront the United States and inflict grave losses on it that would influence the U.S. public because we are ready to fight. We expect everything from the Americans. The United States will pay an exorbitantly heavy price for any aggression against Iraq.

The minister wondered: I would like to ask you why the United States came here? To defend those shaykhs who are notorious for their corruption and for their avarice for billions of dollars and for women. In the past, you the French mocked those shaykhs who did such things. Now you are defending them. You mocked these people who used to marry 50 women at a time. Their only concern is to collect money. This happens at a time when there are thousands of hungry people in Arab states. I have a question to ask: Is this democracy? Is this justice? Is this in line with international law?

Latif Nusayyif Jasim added: As for us, death is an honor. We would be martyrs. As for them, they have no cause. I would like to seize this opportunity to warn foreign and U.S. pilots that they might be eaten up by the people when their aircraft are downed. None of them will remain alive. Jasim went on to say: We warn Bush not to drag the world to a catastrophe because Iraq is not an easy adversary. We warn him and ask him not to allow a world war to erupt in the region. We would like to tell him that the Iraqis seek to live in peace within the confines of international laws and respect for the individual. We urge him not to rush into hysterical acts because of the international detente.

Jasim affirmed that all the Iraqi people stand behind the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He added: Honestly, had they not been faithful, the Iraqis would not have fought for eight continuous years and triumphed.

Minister Says AIDS Victims Among U.S. Troops*JN2008141690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1322 GMT 20 Aug 90*

[Text] Dear listeners, the health minister has stated the following: It is well known among medical circles worldwide, and through the WHO's weekly epidemic diseases bulletin, that the AIDS disease is very widespread in U.S. society. Up to the end of the first half of this year, the number of identified positive cases reached 180,000. Scientific circles believe that the real number of cases, not identified, is more than 1 million.

The minister added: It has been confirmed that thousands of AIDS victims are among U.S. Army troops in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], Bahrain, and the Emirates. They carry this disease and are addicted to drugs. The Arab and Muslim individual can gauge the extent of the danger to our Arab society with the presence of these invaders, whom agents brought in to the land of the Arabs' and Muslims' qiblah. The minister explained that the Health Ministry has informed WHO about the

seriousness of the situation and about the need to intervene and take the necessary measures to deal with the situation.

Foreigners 'Hosted' in Military Installations

JN2008161490 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1602 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—A spokesman for the National Assembly has stated the following:

Iraq's foreign guests are already being hosted at all vital and military installations. All modern means of comfort have been provided for them and they are all in good health.

Citizens Warned Not To Host Foreigners at Home

JN2008121990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1155 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, a source at the Residence Department has warned that any Iraqi who hosts a foreigner at his place of residence and does not inform the competent authorities about it will receive the severest punishment. In a statement today, the spokesman said: According to the law, the foreigner's presence must be registered with the Residence Department supported by full information about that person, his place of residence, and the purpose of his stay in the country.

In accordance with the Residence Law, the foreigner's presence must be registered whether he stays at a hotel or rents a place of residence. Contrary to the law, hosting a foreigner in an Iraqi's place of residence is considered a flagrant violation of the law, for which the severest punishments will be given. The law is enforced on all cases in Iraq, from Zakho to al-Nida' [al-Ahmadi] with its entire administrative borders.

Bus Carrying Foreigners Leaves Baghdad 20 Aug

AU2008114590 Vienna Domestic Service in German
1000 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] In the crisis region in the Gulf, several foreigners—including Austrians—now have specific hopes. Some of the Austrian citizens—seven to 10 persons—have permission to leave the country. At noon a Swissair bus with Swiss, Austrians, and one Portuguese citizen left Baghdad. The bus is expected to reach Jordan shortly before midnight. It is expected that the group will arrive in Amman early the next morning.

At the moment the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Austria is being received by Thomas Klestil, secretary general in the Austrian Foreign Ministry. In a diplomatic note, the Austrian Foreign Ministry asks Iraq to let women, children, and sick people leave first. Foreign Minister Mock stated that it is the priority goal to do everything to help the Austrians in the crisis region.

Eighty-two British citizens are in a precarious situation in the Gulf region. They were kidnapped by Iraqi soldiers and

are to be put into strategically important facilities. Iraqi head of state Saddam Husayn is trying to exert political pressure by using foreign hostages. He makes the release of the foreigners dependent on the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the Gulf region. According to U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney, the United States now also plans to station troops in the United Arab Emirates.

Not Permitted To Leave

AU2008165190 Vienna ORF Teletext in German
1628 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Today Austrian President Waldheim has once again appealed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to permit the Austrians who have been detained in Iraq and Kuwait to leave quickly and unhindered.

The hope that the first Austrians, who were reported to be in a Swiss bus that had left Baghdad for Jordan, would be able to leave has not come true. According to a correspondent of the Austrian Radio and Television Service ORF, Iraq has refused to allow the bus to leave the country.

Prior to that the Iraqi ambassador to Vienna had essentially promised that the approximately 140 Austrians would be permitted to leave the country.

'Concentration Camp' Detainee Describes Conditions

AU2108094390 Hamburg BILD in German
21 Aug 90 p 2

[Adi Sidon report: "I Was in the Lunatic's Concentration Camp"]

[Text] Like Hitler, Iraq's tyrant Saddam Husayn has prisoners and hostages kidnapped and taken to concentration-style camps. Among his victims are thousands of foreigners, probably also 11 Germans who have disappeared.

Ali Uskurt, director general of a Turkish construction company, was freed from the camp by an Iraqi officer who was his friend. He managed to escape to Turkey: "I was in the concentration camp of the lunatic of Baghdad, it was worse than in hell."

At dawn, Director General Uskurt was picked up at his hotel in Baghdad by the secret police and taken to "camp number five."

It is 50 km south of Baghdad in a desert of sand and gravel: two-meter-high barbed-wire fences, a mine belt, watch towers with sharpshooters, and corrugated-iron huts for the guards.

The prisoners are crowded together in the open air. Said Mr. Uskurt: "It was hot, more than 50 degrees, we squatted on the scorched ground, the sun was blazing. I was close to going crazy—because of pain and thirst. We got water only three times a day and some dry bread." At night it was bitter cold. The director general said: "I had to share a cover full of holes with two other people."

The camp is dirty, there are only two toilets for 1,500 prisoners. Many are sick, have a high temperature, are lying among vomit and excrement. There is no doctor, there are no pharmaceuticals. Those who beg for help are mocked by the Iraqi guards.

Husayn established his "camp number five" at a strategically important site: near the Osirak nuclear reactor and the Salman Peak poison gas factory. Thus, the lunatic can use the hostages as a human shield in case of an imminent bomb attack.

The internment camps are distributed over the entire country, in particular near poison gas depots, missile launch pads, and airports. Says British military historian Paul Beaver: "This reminds one of the time of the crusades (12th century). At that time, Saladin and his cohorts used to imprison valuable hostages and tie them to the battlements of their fortresses to deter attackers."

Minister Says Two Ships Intercepted 17 Aug

JN2008172490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 1642 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Muhammad Hamzah, minister of transport and communications, has announced that one of the U.S. naval units in the Arabian Gulf harassed the two Iraqi vessels al-Bay'ah and al-'Abid at 2115 on Friday, 17 August 1990, at 26 degrees 50 minutes north and 52 degrees east.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, he said that shortly before a French naval unit intercepted the two vessels to inquire about their nationality and destination. U.S. Cruiser No. 22 then prevented the two vessels from heading for Iraqi ports and ordered them to go to other ports. It also threatened to use force.

He added that the captains of the two vessels defied the U.S. cruiser and continued on their course toward Iraqi ports. However, the U.S. cruiser continued to follow the two vessels until 0230 on Saturday, 18 August 1990, and then left them. Afterward, another American cruiser, whose number could not be read, began to follow the two vessels. However, the two captains did not pay attention to these threats and harassment and continued on course until they reached Umm-Qasr Port at noon Sunday, 19 August 1990.

The minister said: We immediately telephoned the two captains—Captain Sattar al-Rubay'i and Captain Makki 'Abd-al-Karim—and praised their courage and bravery, together with that of the two vessels' 20-man crews. The reason for this was that the duties they fulfilled at this critical time foiled the aggressive naval blockade which Washington is trying to impose on Iraq.

The minister added: This courage was, and will continue to be, the means to foil all plots of the U.S. naval buildup against the people and the Arab nation.

The minister said the captains and crews of both vessels have pledged to leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, to face all attempts to encroach upon our victorious march. They also pledged that the staff of the

Ministry of Transport and Communications, particularly those working in maritime transportation, will continue to serve our victorious revolution's noble objectives.

PRC Ship With Iraqi Fertilizers Stopped by U.S.

JN2008205690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah reports that a U.S. warship intercepted the Chinese ship Hunk Jin Hi [name as received], which was loaded with 14,200 tonnes of fertilizers [from Iraq] for China. In a statement to INA, the minister said that the captain of the ship sent a telegram to Iraqi ports informing them that his ship had been intercepted in Arabian Gulf waters at 1700 [1300 GMT] on 18 August and ordered to return to Khawr al-Zubayr port.

The minister said this act of aggression is part of the unjust campaign launched by U.S. warships to impose an economic blockade on Iraq. The Chinese ship had left Khawr al-Zubayr port at 1030 on Friday. It was loaded with fertilizers exported by the General Establishment for Fertilizer Industry.

Health Minister Cables UN Groups on Blockade

JN2008204990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has stressed that the agreement on children's rights as endorsed by the UN General Assembly stipulates that children must be protected and looked after under all circumstances and at all times, whether in peace or war. In a cable to UNICEF, the minister called on international forums to clearly stand and break up the measures imposed by the imperialist forces and those following their steps against Iraq. He stressed that UNICEF should mobilize its resources to stand against the starving of children and to adopt measures of the kind that would lift a siege that finds no support in international law.

He said that the blockade included foodstuffs, medicine, and vaccines, and that its continuation would adversely affect health. He said the spread of disease and the failure to get food and vaccines to the children will lead to problems that will not be confined to Iraq alone but will also touch the world whose health standards UNICEF seeks to upgrade and whose children it wants to protect. He stressed that the Iraqi people will resist with all means and methods the imperialist forces' schemes. He also stressed that the world, represented by international organizations, should support them.

The minister sent a similar cable to the WHO in which he explained that the blockade imposed by the United States, Britain, and other countries—which includes food, medicine, and medical supplies—is unprecedented worldwide. This, he said, will affect the health and safety of the individual, family, and society.

He said that depriving the Iraqi people and children of food, medicine, and medical supplies conflicts with general international principles, including the WHO's principles and charters.

He called on the organization to assume its responsibility through international forums and face all the measures taken by the imperialist forces.

He expressed his hope that the organization would take serious and quick measures and steps to thwart the irresponsible resolution adopted by the United States and other countries.

Children Appeal to UN Secretary General

JN2008213890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2005 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—The children and vanguards of Iraq have asked for the lifting of the economic siege imposed on them by the United States and its allies. In a massive march they staged today, which proceeded through the streets of Baghdad toward the UNICEF office representative, the children and vanguards of Iraq expressed their denunciation and condemnation of the U.S. invasion of the holy Arab land.

The children and vanguards of Iraq burned the U.S. flag in front of the UNICEF office in Baghdad. After that, they handed a letter addressed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to the UNICEF representative in which they asserted that the United States and its allies have gone beyond international law and pushed aside human values; prompted by their brute force and evil thoughts, they have begun to impose an economic siege by armed force on Iraq, and to prevent the arrival of medicine and food, including milk for infants. This reflects their hostility toward childhood and humanity. Following is the text of the letter:

Esteemed UN Secretary General Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar: We send to you the best wishes of the vanguards of Iraq, the children of this faithful country, which possesses a time-honored, humane civilization from which the first law issued to organize life and to establish human values—peace, justice, truthful behavior—as well as sound relations guaranteeing right and eschewing injustice.

We write you this letter in the name of all the children of Iraq. We would like to see the United Nations, and you personally, demonstrate a kind of action that will avert war and destruction from our region. Our Arab land has been exposed to a racist foreign invasion as manifested in the occupation by the forces of the United States and its allies of our religious holy places in Holy Mecca and al-Madinah. Their naval fleets also defiled the waters of our Arab Gulf. They are now brandishing war and destruction. No doubt you agree with us that it is the duty of the United Nations, in accordance with its Charter and objectives, to defend the right of peoples to self-determination and to choose the political course that

serves their interests, provided that this does not clash with the principles of international law.

The truth is that what our country did was for the sake of peace and stems from spiritual, legal, and ethical values embraced by humanity at large.

The sons of Kuwait have risen up against a tyrannical, corrupt rule that dissipated the funds of the people in many criminal and extortionist actions. It was natural and inevitable that the sons of Kuwait, who sparked off this intifadah, would ask for the help of their brothers in Iraq, and ask that the kinfolk in Iraq agree to the return of this usurped part to the land of origin, Iraq. This is what happened in the course of events taking place since 2 August—the day of the Kuwaiti intifadah. This entails nothing that threatens peace and contains nothing that contradicts international law.

We would like to inform you that we take pride in our father and stalwart leader Saddam Husayn because he is the symbol of Iraq's dignity and because he is a brave hero who is defending the rights of the Arab nation and struggling against imperialism and racism, and against all forms of injustice, poverty, and oppression. Moreover, he possesses a great deal of human qualities in wisdom, chivalry, and honesty. His excellency has also many achievements in development and civilization to his credit.

Your excellency the secretary general: The United States and its allies have gone beyond international law and pushed aside human values, and, prompted by their brute force and evil thoughts, they have begun to impose an economic siege by armed force on Iraq and prevent the arrival of medicines and food, thus causing a shortage in imported foodstuffs, including milk for infants. This expresses their hostility toward childhood and humanity.

We hope the United Nations will intensify its efforts to pressure the U.S. Administration and its allies to respect international law, to condemn and denounce the U.S.-Zionist occupation of our holy land, and to safeguard peace. We highly trust that your efforts will have a positive impact on the course of events.

Please accept our appreciation and respect.

Military Spokesman on Iran Withdrawal Schedule

JN2008165090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1632 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—A military spokesman has stated the following:

1. On the basis of directives by the Armed Forces commander in chief, President Saddam Husayn, regarding the withdrawal of our units from Iranian territory, units of the I Army Corps began their withdrawal at 0700 on 18 August; their withdrawal was completed on the same day.
2. Units of the II Army Corps began their withdrawal at 0700 on 19 August; their withdrawal was completed on the same day.

3. Units of the IV Army Corps began their withdrawal at 0700 on 17 August; their withdrawal was completed on the same day.
4. Units of the V Army Corps began their withdrawal at 0700 on 18 August; their withdrawal was completed on the same day.
5. Units of the VI Army Corps began their withdrawal at 0700 on 20 August; their withdrawal was completed on the same day.
6. Units of the III Army Corp will begin their withdrawal at 0700 on 21 August.

Iran, Iraq Exchange POW's Beginning Aug 18

ICRC Swamped

JN1808182290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated the following:

Iraq has expressed its readiness to release as many Iranian POW's as possible every day, but the problem lies in the inability of the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to carry out their duties in accordance with the Geneva Convention. The number of ICRC employees in Iraq is only 19, and they announced that they could not deal with more than 1,000 cases a day.

The spokesman added that the Foreign Ministry is insisting that the ICRC increase the number of its employees in Iraq and Iran so that its representatives can check the names and identities of the POW's and register and hand them over in a correct manner in accordance with the Geneva Convention pertaining to POW's; this will increase the number of POW's repatriated to their homelands by both sides every day.

First Group Arrives

JN1808211090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA)—One thousand Iraqi prisoners arrived here today. These prisoners constitute the first group in the POW's exchange between Iraq and Iran in implementation of President Saddam Husayn's initiative.

Thousands of citizens lined up on both sides of the road between the capital of Baghdad and the city of Khanaqin, 160 km on the eastern border with Iran, to receive the returnees.

Extremely humanitarian and noble feelings and the emotions of relatives were mixed with those of the returnees who rushed to kiss the homeland's soil. They

shouted slogans praising President Saddam Husayn and expressing love for the homeland, Iraq.

The process to deliver the second batch of Iranian POW's took place on the border between the two countries today under the supervision of the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The first batch, consisting of 1,000 POW's, was turned over yesterday.

Second Group 19 Aug

JN1908114690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Aug (INA)—INA has learned that the second batch of Iraqi prisoners this morning arrived at the point of delivery on the Iraqi-Iranian borders.

INA has also learned that the third batch of Iraqi prisoners will arrive there this afternoon. Thus, two batches of Iraqi prisoners will have arrived today.

Third Group 20 Aug

JN2008113090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1050 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] The third batch of Iraqi prisoners arrived home today. They should have arrived last night, but the long distance to the point of delivery delayed their arrival.

The third batch of prisoners was given a warm welcome at the point of delivery on the Iraqi-Iranian borders.

Fourth Group

JN2008215490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2137 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—The fourth batch of Iraqi prisoners arrived in the homeland at dawn today. Immediately following their arrival in the dear homeland, the prisoners began to shout, hailing President Saddam Husayn and great Iraq. They asserted that the humanitarian initiative of President Saddam Husayn returned joy and happiness to them and to their families. They prayed God would protect his excellency and keep him a support for the Arab nation and its future and dignity.

A grand popular and official celebration was held for the prisoners, in which popular and mass organizations and a large number of citizens took part.

Correction to Foreign Diplomats To Lose Immunity

JN2008122890

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Foreign Diplomats in Kuwait to Lose Immunity," published in the 20 August Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 14: Column two, paragraph one, only sentence, make read: ...foreign nationals. [new graf] On 9 August, Iraq informed...(correcting date)

Egyptians To Be Allowed To Return Through Elat

TA2008181890 Jerusalem Israel Television
Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Egypt has asked Israel to allow Egyptian citizens in Jordan to cross into Egypt through Elat, and this evening Foreign Minister David Levi consented to the request. This was reported by our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin.

This evening, Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni called on the foreign minister with a request from Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. Basyuni told Levi that there are thousands of Egyptians who fled from Iraq and Kuwait in al-'Aqabah. Their number is increasing daily, and in the absence of ships these Egyptian subjects cannot cross into the country by sea, Basyuni said.

The foreign minister replied that Israel considers it natural to extend its assistance to the citizens of a friendly country fleeing the horrors of tyranny. Ambassador Basyuni will leave for Cairo tomorrow to relay Levi's reply to his government.

Egypt Allegedly Denies Request

TA2108104890 Jerusalem Domestic Service
in English 1000 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Text] Egypt's official MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY quotes an unnamed senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry official as saying: This fabrication has no basis in reality.

Here in Jerusalem, the office of the Foreign Ministry spokesman told me the Egyptian denial has not reached Israel through official channels, and therefore the spokesman would not react to it. However, sources in Jerusalem insist that Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni did ask Foreign Minister David Levi yesterday for Israel's permission to bring the 20,000 Jordanian [as heard] workers, trapped in al-'Aqabah, through Elat to the Egyptian crossing point in Tabah, and Levi readily agreed.

The Jerusalem sources concede that no plans have been made. Egypt would ask to obtain Jordanian approval first, the Jerusalem sources said, but the request was certainly made.

The Voice of Israel Arab affairs reporter says the Egyptians are very embarrassed about the leaking of the story in Israel. They had hoped that their request to Israel would remain confidential. This apparently was the real reason for the Egyptian denial.

Levi Comments on Jordan, Gulf Crisis, PLO

TA2008173990 Jerusalem Israel Television
Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Eli Nisan at the Knesset building in Jerusalem on 20 August—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Levi] Israel has a basic interest in having stability prevail in Jordan, rather than having its regime, monarchy, and king destabilized. We have no anti-Jordanian intentions whatsoever, quite the contrary. I wanted to convey this directly to King Husayn because of all the theses and declarations that are going around that Israel, as it were, poses a danger to and threatens Jordan. This is absolutely and utterly false. On the other hand, King Husayn must realize that any danger posed to Israel from the direction of Jordan or any movement of troops from outside Jordan's boundaries into Jordan would constitute a red light for Israel; this is a dangerous situation.

[Nisan] Mr. Levi, how do you react to reports about an attempt to attack an Israeli airplane in order to involve Israel in the Persian Gulf crisis?

[Levi] There have always been operations by terror organizations. These have in recent times been depicted as pacifist organizations, while we have been asserting that they have never renounced terror. The very thought of attacking an Israeli passenger aircraft attests to the nature of these groups. Israel is doing everything necessary to safeguard its security, airplanes, and citizens. We have no interest in a war; we are not threatening anybody. On the contrary, we are the ones who are being threatened, but we are taking all the necessary measures to maintain our security and protect ourselves.

[Nisan] Your position on the distribution of gas masks conflicts with that of the Defense Ministry. Why do you think the gas masks should be distributed now?

[Levi] I do not know that it conflicts with the Defense Ministry's position. All the explanations I have been hearing are incredible. The masks are meant for use at this time when there are tangible threats. Knowing that our population is equipped also plays a part in deterring the enemy. Hence, I fail to understand the resentful reaction. It is totally out of place. I can tell you that, in any event, the matter will be decided one way or another this week by the pertinent elements; I have agreed as much with the prime minister.

[Nisan] Mr. Levi, during the UN General Assembly session, you will be conferring with the Chinese foreign minister. Does this meeting hint of a development in Israeli-PRC relations?

[Levi] Israel makes formidable efforts to develop relations with all the countries of the world, all the more so with countries with which it wants to strengthen or establish relations. The PRC is one of those countries. Our relations with the Soviet Union have been improving, and a meeting will also be held with the

Soviet foreign minister. The latter has sent a special emissary who has already conferred with me and handed me a good message. I hope for good things in the future.

[Nisan] To sum up, following your talks with the EC foreign ministers, it was stated that the PLO is not the only option in the region. What other options exist in your opinion?

[Levi] First of all, peace with the Arab countries. Today, it has been proven that Israel has been justified in its demand. Imagine yourself solving just one issue and thinking you have attained peace, while the Arab countries remain in a state of war with us or while a situation similar to that with Iraq continues. What would we have achieved then?

Now the PLO has definitely shown its true colors. 'Arafat embraced Saddam Husayn, and through this action condoned extremism and terror and supported the aggression, invasion, and annexation of Kuwait. He is no interlocutor to a dialogue with us. We have said as much in the past, and we reiterate to the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza: Israel wants to open, together with you, a discussion and dialogue for a better life. Come! Those men have only led you to disaster and bloodshed. You have in no way seen any salvation from promises based on terror, death, and murder. Let us turn over a new page. Israel is willing and is stretching out its hand. I hope our call will be heeded now that they see what happens to leaders who make the entire world, both East and West, unite against those same methods which they were told would bring them salvation.

Teams Preparing for Levi-Shevardnadze Meeting

TA2008113290 Jerusalem Domestic Service
in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Ministry teams will meet next week in Moscow and Jerusalem with Soviet teams to prepare the meeting of Foreign Minister David Levi with his USSR counterpart. The two are scheduled to meet next month at UN headquarters in New York.

Minister Levi reported this to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir adds that in a discussion held at the committee, the foreign minister reiterated the stand that Israel welcomes any disarmament initiative in the region, provided that it applies to all the countries here.

Further on Preparations

TA2108084290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 21 Aug 90 p 10

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Excerpts] Israel and the Soviet Union will hold exploratory talks in Moscow in the middle of next month to discuss the idea of arms control in the Middle East, Foreign Minister David Levi told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday. Levi hailed

the forthcoming discussions—expected to touch on other bilateral issues as well—as the most substantive yet between the two countries.

Senior Foreign Ministry officials insist the talks are not a result of the current Persian Gulf crisis, and that the Soviets agreed to an Israeli proposal before the crisis began, fueling speculation that this agreement took place during cabinet secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein's visit to Moscow. Israel has suggested such exploratory talks since February 1989, when then foreign minister Moshe Arens met with Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Senior Foreign Ministry officials say the agenda for the talks in Moscow last month [as published] have not been worked out, nor is it clear who will lead the discussions on both sides. Besides the issue of full diplomatic relations, there is speculation that both sides will address issues connected to Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, including the easing of restrictions on the number of Israeli embassy personnel in Moscow allowed to process the large flow. [passage omitted]

Levi, PRC Foreign Minister To Confer at UN

TA2008153690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
20 Aug 90 p A1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister David Levi will confer with the Chinese foreign minister during the UN General Assembly session to be held in New York on 22 September. Over the weekend, the Chinese UN delegation informed the Israeli delegates that Beijing had approved the meeting.

At the meeting, Levi will discuss the enhancement of bilateral relations, which are currently being conducted by tourism chambers and the Israeli academic delegation in Beijing.

During the UN General Assembly session, Levi will also confer with the foreign ministers of Egypt and the Soviet Union and the U.S. secretary of state.

The Foreign Ministry is preparing for Levi's visit to Washington at the beginning of next month. Nevertheless, in view of the escalation in the Persian Gulf crisis, one should not rule out a second postponement of Levi's visit or that the U.S. Administration may ask him to settle with the meeting scheduled to be held during the UN General Assembly session. [passage omitted]

Arab MK Barred From Going to Iraq To Mediate

TA2008115790 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
20 Aug 90 p 5

[Report by Sulayman al-Shafa'i, Yig'al Avidan in Berlin, Daniyel Aviv, and news agencies]

[Text] The prime minister's bureau has turned down a request by Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah to leave for Iraq. Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, said: "We are not interested in MK Darawshah's departure for Iraq. He has already expressed his support for Saddam Husayn, and we therefore do not regard his initiative as anything serious." According to Pazner, Darawshah's move was simply a publicity stunt.

Darawshah said yesterday: "I deeply regret the prime minister's avoidance of the issue. As is his custom, Yitzhaq Shamir continues to reject all peace initiatives and prefers to hide and avoid reality. The initiative I came up with could have contributed to a certain measure of understanding that might have prevented a mutual Israeli-Iraqi attack." He added that he is still hoping the prime minister will approve his trip to Iraq "to obtain an agreement between Iraq and Israel not to attack each other."

[In a report on page six by Sulayman al-Shafa'i and Fayiz 'Abbas, the same issue of HADASHOT reports that "a group of Israeli Arabs has offered humanitarian aid for the citizens of Iraq, but MK 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah blocked it by arguing that 'Iraq does not need it, and besides the initiative is unfeasible.'" The initiative came from members of Darawshah's Arab Democratic Party, who sent a message to him "yesterday" announcing their readiness to send "basic foodstuffs for the women, children, and elderly citizens of Iraq. They are currently suffering greatly because of the economic blockade imposed by the United States and its satellites. We view this move as collective punishment, conflicting with all democratic and humane values." They asked for Darawshah's help in "circumventing the barricades that could

block their way." Darawshah declined, as "the approval by party institutions was necessary" for that.]

Al-Husayni, Others Issued Foreign Travel Bans

TA2008193890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1930 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Orders banning their exit from the country were issued about an hour ago for Faysal al-Husayni and two other Palestinian activists. Interior Minister Arye Der'i signed the orders after being convinced there were serious suspicions that their departures abroad might harm state security. The two other activists are: ('Ata Khalil Muhammad Kimar), an activist of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine who was sentenced to life in prison in the 1970's and was later released in a prisoner exchange with Ahmad Jibril; and (Zahayr Ahmad 'Abdallah Ramal), a high-level activist of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestinian in Judea and Samaria.

The interior minister was convinced that the two and al-Husayni were about to meet with elements hostile to the country during their stay abroad. This was reported by our correspondent Eyal Lavi.

Minister Says Energy Economy Ready for Emergency

TA2008192090 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Israel's energy economy is ready for times of emergency, Energy and Infrastructure Minister Yuval Ne'eman today informed the Knesset Economy Committee. The minister stated that Israel has enough reserves of crude oil and that it will increase its oil purchases through long-term contracts with various countries at the expense of purchases on the free market.

Port Activity at Al-'Aqabah Detailed**17 Ships Arrive 20 Aug**

*JN2008201190 Amman Jordan Television Network
in English 1900 GMT 20 Aug 90*

[Text] Al-'Aqabah port officials said around 20,000 Egyptians and up to 800 Sudanese, who crossed into Jordan in the past few days, await to be ferried home. Port director 'Awad al-Tall said Jordan expected between 200,000 and 300,000 Egyptians to arrive in the next few weeks.

Dr. al-Tall said 17 ships docked in al-'Aqabah are awaiting to unload goods to Jordan or load domestic Jordanian exports. He told the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY that he expected 19 ships to arrive over the next 10 days. He said no vessels arrived today but six carrying automobiles, ammonium, and sesame seeds are expected during the coming hours and will ferry potash and phosphates from Jordan. He also said four ships, two of them Indian carrying a load of Jordanian phosphates, had left the port today.

Ships Detained

*NC2008130690 Paris AFP in English 1159 GMT
20 Aug 90*

[Text] Amman, Aug 20 (AFP)—A vessel carrying goods for Iraq and Jordan has been detained in Saudi Arabia where the supplies for Baghdad were confiscated, a Jordanian shipping agent said on Monday.

He said that according to reports at the Jordanian Red Sea port of al-'Aqabah, a Chinese vessel, also laden with goods for Jordan and Iraq, had been held up in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

The Red Sea Ensign was "detained" in the western port of Jeddah, where officials "confiscated" goods destined for Iraq, said the agent, who asked not to be identified.

He said the ship was now waiting for another al-'Aqabah-bound vessel to transport its cargo of 140 containers destined for Jordan.

A reliable source here reported that three Egyptian navy frigates were approaching Jordanian territorial waters Monday, apparently to monitor the evacuation of thousands of Egyptians who have arrived in Jordan from Iraq over the past few days.

An Iraqi vessel was among several ships in Jordanian territorial waters Monday waiting to berth at al-'Aqabah, 350 kilometers (220 miles) south of here, to unload food and newsprint, according to the shipping agent.

In all, 14 ships were either in Jordanian territorial waters or berthed at al-'Aqabah, including a Cypriot-registered vessel loaded with fertilizer for Jordan, he said.

The United Nations approved a trade embargo—excluding medicine—against Iraq four days after its August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

But following talks last week with U.S. President George Bush, Jordan's King Husayn said he was seeking clarification on the U.N. embargo, as officials here maintain the restrictions do not apply to food.

The Jordanian government has meanwhile urged citizens to economise on electricity to offset the negative impact that the international trade embargo will have on Jordan.

Iraq is among Amman's most important trading partners and provides Jordan with 95 per cent of its oil.

Paper Says Interception of Ships 'Acts of Piracy'

*JN2008090190 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
20 Aug 90 pp 1, 20*

[Editorial: "An Impregnable Homeland or Martyrdom"]

[Text] If anyone has the right to talk about the UN charter, international law, and respect for human principles and values, it is definitely not the United States, nor any of the states whose vessels are roaming the seas and oceans bringing to mind acts of piracy, which these colonialist forces are now reviving.

The blockade imposed by the United States along with its allies is a declaration of war, which is justification for fraternal Iraq to take any action dictated by the need to safeguard its citizens, land, sovereignty, and national decisionmaking. Before the United States launches allegations that this blockade is being carried out in accordance with the UN charter and international law, it should pay its arrears to this international organization, which exceed \$700 million. Before Washington and other capitals invoke this clamor about the foreigners that fraternal Iraq decided to host so that they may experience the same circumstances as the Iraqis and face with others the blockade imposed by their states, Washington should first stop its acts of piracy, which were recently aimed at keeping hundreds of thousands of citizens of various nationalities inside Iraq should Jordan decide to close its border, or inside Jordan, whose limited resources cannot meet their needs. The U.S. Navy's interception of an empty Sudanese ship that was bound for al-'Aqabah to ferry Sudanese citizens to their homeland is an act of war and piracy, and an act aimed at starving innocent people to death.

The United States should respect human beings regardless of their color, nationality, or religion. If it imagines that the Arabs are citizens who do not deserve life and that the Iraqis must starve to death, it confirms by this illusion its real ignorance and exposes a racism and arrogance that are too feeble to defeat a people and a nation. This is what it is seeking now while attempting to strike at Iraq and the pan-Arab pride it stands for.

If the United States wants to get itself out of the bottleneck, it must accept the humanitarian, moral, and brave initiative proposed by Iraq yesterday in order to safeguard the lives of the children, women, and men of Iraq and to safeguard the lives of its guests of children, women, and men. Washington's acceptance of an initiative calling for deployment of international forces between Iraq and Saudi Arabia and looking for an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis is the only move to prove that Washington is not seeking to reverse time to occupy the Arab land, crush the Arab will, plunder Arab resources, and enslave millions of Arabs.

Our souls and blood will prevent the United States from achieving this illusion. The United States will find behind every corner in this homeland and behind every window, tree, and door Arabs fighting it, seeking an impregnable homeland or heaven [after martyrdom]. However, the pirates, killers, and racists may not realize this fact until it is too late. This is what we do not wish.

AFP Reports Army in 'State of Preparedness'

NC1808154990 Paris AFP in English 1525 GMT
18 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, Aug 18 (AFP)—The Jordanian army on Saturday assumed a state of preparedness amidst growing signs of a military confrontation between Iraqi and foreign troops in the wake of Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait, a regional military source said.

The Royal Jordanian Air Force also denied access to 18 Kuwaiti cadets training at Jordanian air bases while revoking their passes and training licenses, informed sources said.

Diplomats at the Kuwaiti embassy here declined to comment on the report but said several hundred Kuwaitis usually attended training courses with the Jordanian army and air force.

Entry to a major air base in a Amman suburb was moreover denied to "all military attaches of foreign embassies unless they are accompanied by Jordanian officers," the military source told Agence France-Presse on condition of anonymity.

Eyewitnesses said Jordanian troops, namely air force units, were further bolstering their ground defenses by digging massive trenches around their bases.

They reported seeing Jordanian troops along the country's highways and army convoys were also spotted heading towards the Jordan Valley, towards the disengagement line with Israel, as well as to the Red Sea port of al-Aqabah 350 kilometers (220 miles) south of Amman.

The 85,000-strong Jordanian armed forces has been on a "partial state of alert" since August 2 when Iraq invaded Kuwait. Jordan has 35,000 reservists.

Personnel at the "Husayn Medical City"—on the western outskirts of Amman—were ordered Saturday to begin

reporting to work in field fatigues instead of regular medical uniforms, the regional military source said.

Various sources said training centers for the "people's army", a civilian militia, which were ordered to be opened by King Husayn on Sunday, began receiving recruits on Wednesday.

Tens of thousands of Jordanians have volunteered to fight alongside Iraqi troops in the event war breaks out in the region and if Iraq is attacked by Western or other forces.

Some 18,000 students at the University of Jordan are said to have enlisted in the people's army, which the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies said numbers 15,000 troops.

First introduced in the 1980s, the people's army has drawn men and women volunteers aged 16 to 56.

King To Pursue Efforts To Defuse Gulf Crisis

JN1808201190 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has emphasized that Jordan will persist in its Arab and international efforts to defuse the escalating Gulf crisis. Speaking to editors in chief and columnists of Jordanian newspapers and directors of media organizations at a meeting at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon, his majesty addressed the present state of affairs in the region with special reference to the Gulf.

[Begin Husayn recording] I am happy to take time off to talk to you about the challenges we are up against nationally and from a pan-Arab perspective. To begin with, let me tell you how proud I am of our large family and its true Arab identity. I am impressed by the way it is discharging its duties and its sound assessment of the critical and grave circumstances we are going through. The [Arab] nation is going through what may turn out to be its most critical, decisive moments. Our nation is at a crossroads; it will either go forward toward its goals and objectives and claim its right to life and a place under the sun in the community of nations, or, God forbid, regress to darkness when we will risk forfeiting all that our fathers and forefathers and the honorable in our Arab world have striven for.

I am proud of the awareness and feelings that have brought together each and everyone on this land. My being one of them is a source of pride for me. I trust God will grant us success so that we may continue to fulfill our duties. I am fully confident that the Arabs all over feel the same as we do and that they and we are going down one road so that we may pass the test and realize the immediate objective of this dynamic nation, which, even as hostile and covetous forces gang up against it, will, God willing, hold its ground, and then take its rightful place in the community of nations. [end recording]

Editorial Urges Unconditional U.S.-Iraqi Talks*JN2108065290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
21 Aug 90 p 4*

[Editorial: "Emotions Running High; Reason Has To Prevail"]

[Text] Washington needs to define its objectives in the Gulf more clearly lest there be a miscalculation that would spell disaster for the entire Middle East region and the whole international community. Escalation in the Gulf seems now to be the order of the day instead of cool reflection on the pragmatic options available to the principal parties to the Gulf conflict. No one would like to see foreigners trapped in the Gulf crisis or used as "pawns." At the same time no one should tolerate seeing Washington applying the U.N. Security Council Resolution 661 calling for sanctions against Iraq in a manner inconsistent with international norms and the charter of the U.N. itself. The unilateral application by force, or a blockade, against non-military goods to Iraq is a clear sign that Washington flouts international law in pursuing its policy in the Middle East. Once the West accepts to act in a manner contrary to the provisions of international law and act in a manner that cannot be construed except as an act of war, it will be the beginning of an entire process that would bring harm to all sides. What is urgently needed now is to find a basis for unconditional talks between Washington and Baghdad. These talks, once started, should focus not only on defusing tension but on all political aspects of their relationship as well. The problem in the Gulf is obviously exacerbated by the lack of understanding and negotiations between the two countries and now is the time to change the picture. It would be such a great step forward if the foreign ministers of the two countries hold immediate negotiations with a view to set in motion the process of deescalation and reasonable accommodation. There is now so much ill feelings between Washington and Baghdad that blindness and emotional reactions appear to have the upper hand. The international community should join in the effort to have the U.S. and Iraq meet forthwith to spell out their concerns and objectives. Once contacts are initiated and channels of communications have opened there would be hope for a way out. Otherwise the two sides are being pushed towards an abyss. As long as a quid pro quo can still be attained between them, there is every possibility that war and destruction might be averted.

Hasan Says Jordan Will Suffer From Sanctions*JN1708214090 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Aug 90*

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, has said that Jordan has sought since the beginning of the Gulf dispute to transfer the conflict to a regional level. This came in an interview with the BBC conducted with his royal highness this afternoon.

[Begin recording in English] [Reporter] Prince Hasan, what is Jordan's position as regards sanctions on Iraq now?

[Hasan] Jordan's position is adherence to Security Council resolutions, and indeed as far as sanctions are concerned, as important as they are, Jordan has from the beginning taken every measure possible to try and bring this crisis—the Kuwait-Iraq crisis—into perspective in a regional context. I know that Jordan is a part of the region, but I don't think that Jordan and al-'Aqabah is the issue, and I think that the media has really emphasized this point a great deal. The point is very clearly that Jordan is bound to suffer, that the Jordanians are prepared to face such suffering, and that we are discussing the whole subject of sanctions as stipulated by the United Nations resolutions; and I here stress it is a United Nations resolution with the Security Council.

[Reporter] So I'd like to get this clear. You are saying that no cargoes for Iraq will be unloaded at al-'Aqabah?

[Hasan] We are saying that before we implement this resolution to the full extent possible, his majesty said yesterday that there will be no shipments; I mean, that is on record, but the fact is that we are a contiguous country. We are not a country many, many miles away. And every single country that has felt the pinch of sanctions has been consulting with the Security Council, and Article 50 states very clearly that there is a principle involved that you don't punish the country directly involved by punishing everybody in the neighborhood. So, this is a subject that really requires some bookkeeping.

[Reporter] But as far as cargoes destined for Iraq are concerned, they will not be unloaded at al-'Aqabah?

[Hasan] Let me remind you that the subject is not only that side of it which I just touched on. It's also the whole subject of banking transactions. Your own [name indistinct] investment organization based in London has been allowed by the Bank of England to move some of those funds which are called in protective custody, quote unquote. Even the United States is looking for Kuwaiti funding to cover some of the bill of the movement of forces. So I mean, there are talks involved, and this is a small country with limited resources, and this was very plainly stated to the European Council of Ministers who expressed every understanding yesterday when we met and talked on the subject in detail.

[Reporter] But you are in real difficulty, aren't you, when so much of your population clearly supports Saddam Husayn?

[Hasan] Well, I think so much of our population is clearly opposed to the arbitrary criteria applied to United Nations resolutions. Twenty-three years of occupation of Palestinians in the occupied territories—I am not trying to equate situations, but I would just like to say that international peace and justice have to be applied everywhere in the world and in the Middle East. This particular case is peculiar because of oil. We appreciate the importance of oil, but there are people living in this part of the world, foreigners living in this part of the world, and all this human misery has to be brought to, we

hope, a satisfactory conclusion so that we rejoin the international community of states to which we rightfully belong.

[Reporter] Prince Hasan, thank you very much for taking the time to join us.

[Hasan] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Prime Minister Orders Conservation Measures

JN2008113790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
20 Aug 90 pp 1, 15

[Excerpt] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Prime Minister Mudar Badran has decided to take measures to reduce and rationalize expenditure in the field of energy. The measures include the suspension of lighting during daytime at ministries, official departments, and public establishments, as well as the use of air conditioning systems.

Badran also demanded that the illumination of streets, squares, and public parks be reduced by half and that the necessary steps to ensure compliance with these instructions be taken.

Energy Ministry sources said the prime minister's instructions will be implemented during the next 48 hours and that electric companies in the Kingdom will take the required technical measures to implement this. [passage omitted]

Appeal Made For Donations for Iraqi Children

JN1908063690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
19 Aug 90 p 1

["Appeal" headlined "Milk for the Children of Iraq" by the General Union of Voluntary Societies in Jordan, appearing in a box as an advertisement]

[Text] An appeal directed to the human conscience all over the world, starting from Jordan:

From the children of Jordan to fathers and mothers wherever they are.

The children of Jordan from the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) who are aware there is still a responsive human conscience appeal to all citizens in Jordan, to the local, Arab, regional and international organisations and institutions and the world child organisations and to leaders of the world's countries to end injustice against the children of Iraq who are threatened with being deprived of bread and milk.

The children of Jordan demand all to implement the principles of the international declaration on children's rights which provides for protecting and taking care of children under all circumstances, in all times and in the days of war and peace alike. The principles of the international declaration on the children's rights by which all the world abide by linking between these rights and the child's basic needs. The declaration's provisions under articles No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 guarantee the protection and welfare

of children as well as social, food, and educational security and their right to grow up in healthy conditions in the times of war, peace and disasters.

The children of Jordan appeal for providing milk and food supplies for the children of Iraq.

The appeal comes on the eve of convening the world summit for children in which many leaders of the world's countries will take part to protect childhood.

As we head our call from the General Union of Voluntary Societies in Jordan we appeal to fathers and mothers to respond favourably to this call. Let us share our food together.

Cash and in-kind donations are received at the following centres:

GUVS-Jabal Luwaybidah	Tel. 634001, 634009, 630398.
GUVS-Amman Governorate	639555
GUVS-Irbid Governorate	(02)242518
GUVS-al-Zarqa'	(09)981712
GUVS-al-Balqa'	(05)555285
GUVS-al-Karak	(03)351169
GUVS-Ma'an	(03)32477
GUVS-al-Tafilah	(03)342365
GUVS-al-Mafraq	(04)432799

King Cables Iraqi, Iranian Presidents on Peace

JN1808070590 Amman Domestic Service in English
0430 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent congratulatory cables to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the occasion of the peace agreement reached between Iraq and Iran. In his cable to the Iraqi leader, his majesty expressed hope that trust and good relations will be built between the two neighbor countries to ensure the stability of the region. In his congratulatory message to the Iranian president, the king expressed profound happiness over the agreement reached with the Iraqis, and hoped the relations between Iraq and Iran would be an example to Muslims in the area. His majesty also expressed hope that other Muslims would preserve their efforts toward stability in the area. His majesty also congratulated the Iraqi and Iranian prisoners of war and their families.

Contacts Underway To Resume Relations With Iran

JN2008072090 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
20 Aug 90 Second Edition p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned from diplomatic sources that following the Iraqi peace initiative and in

order to maintain the interests of the Islamic nation, the Jordanian and Iranian Governments have been holding contacts to resume diplomatic relations soon. It is noteworthy that the exchange of POW's between Iraq and Iran has been continuing since last Friday.

King, Foreign Officials Discuss Gulf Crisis

*JN1908173390 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Aug 90*

[Text] This afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Yemen, and Mr. Yusuf Sa'id, political adviser to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Front in Sudan. His majesty briefed them on the ongoing endeavors to find an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis and Jordan's sustained regional and global efforts toward that end. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Mr. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, were present at the meeting. The Yemeni and Sudanese officials arrived in Amman earlier in the day.

Meanwhile, speaking to our political affairs correspondent, Mr. al-Iryani had this to say:

[Begin al-Iryani recording] I have come here with my colleague, the political adviser to His Excellency President 'Umar al-Bashir, who is in Sanaa now for talks with brother chairman 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih about the present serious developments in the region. Following a telephone conversation with his majesty the king, we were dispatched here to communicate certain views and to familiarize ourselves with his majesty's evaluation of the situation and make every possible effort to avert the potentially dire consequences of the deployment of foreign forces to the Arab region and a solution excluding Arab leaders, God forbid, but that is the way things look right now. [end recording]

India's Gujral Meets King; Departs for Iraq

*BK1808150390 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 18 Aug 90*

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, met King Husayn of Jordan in Amman today. Describing the meeting as extremely cordial, Mr. Gujral said King Husayn briefed him on his recent talks with President Bush.

The external affairs minister is leaving for Baghdad tonight to discuss with Iraqi leaders the safety and security of the Indians in Iraq and Kuwait. Mr. Gujral will hold talks with President Saddam Husayn and other

Iraqi leaders in this regard. He will work out the arrangements to evacuate those Indians who want to go home from Kuwait. He said about 200 Indians are entering Jordan every day and all arrangements are being made to fly them to India.

Japanese Foreign Minister Arrives in Amman

*JN2008181690 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Aug 90*

[Text] Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama arrived in Amman this evening on a two-day visit to Jordan as part of his tour of a number of countries in the region. During the visit, the Japanese foreign minister will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on bilateral relations and the situation in the Arabian Gulf region. He was received at Amman Civil Airport by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, a number of officials, and the Japanese ambassador in Amman.

Agreements With FRG, World Food Program Signed

*JN1708103690 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1405 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Excerpts] Amman, 16 Aug (PETRA)—A financial agreement between the Government of Jordan and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany was signed at the Planning Ministry today. Under this agreement, the German Government will extend to Jordan a 55-million Deutsche mark loan to boost the corrective program of the industry and trade sector. This loan will be provided under easy terms by the German Construction Bank.

Stemming from this financial agreement, a loan agreement will be signed between the Jordanian Government and the German Construction Bank. This agreement will determine the procedure and conditions of investing the loan. [passage omitted]

The Jordanian Government and the World Food Program signed a memorandum of understanding at the Planning Ministry today, under which the program will provide food aid estimated at \$1,811,124 to provide urgent aid to those affected by drought in the southern and eastern areas of the kingdom.

The aid includes providing 4,255 tonnes of flour, 215 tonnes of vegetable oil, and 430 tonnes of grain and vegetables in order to help more than 100,000 young farmers and their families who have been affected by drought.

It is noteworthy that the World Food Program is currently participating in funding three major projects in Jordan, which are: developing agricultural highlands at a cost of \$26 million, a school nutrition program at a cost of \$6.5 million, and grazing land at a cost of \$4 million. [passage omitted]

Group Denounces 'Incursion,' Threatens Americans

NC2008193190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] A hitherto unknown organization calling itself the Revolutionary Islamic Movement in the World [al-Harakah al-Thawriyah al-Islamiyah fi al-'Alam] has denounced the U.S. incursion in the region and threatened to turn the ground into a graveyard for Americans.

In a handwritten statement delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut, the organization said: Let the arrogant powers know that we will turn the ground into a graveyard for them and their nationals. The Islamic mujahidin will not stand idly by and will be in the vanguard of those resisting America and its invasion of the region.

Communist Party Denounces U.S., Iraqi Invasion

NC1908153390 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] The Lebanese Communist Party [LCP] today denounced the U.S.-NATO imperialist aggression against the Arab nation which has used the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as a feeble pretext to embark on an occupation of Saudi Arabia and some other Gulf states. A statement issued by the LCP Central Committee said that the United States is mobilizing fleets, aircraft carriers, and all types of destructive weapons and is threatening to escalate the situation by launching a direct attack on Iraq. It added that preparations are under way for this attack and noted that this is accompanied by Israeli preparations to strike at the intifadah, drive the Palestinian people from their land, and carry out an aggression against Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq as part of a campaign designed to subdue the region to direct military intervention that is aimed at tightening control over oil wells, pipelines, and outlets.

The LCP Central Committee said that this U.S. aggression must be confronted on the popular, political, and military levels on the largest scale possible. It denounced the United States for installing itself as the absolute administrative ruler and policeman of the world in contravention of UN Security Council resolutions. The Central Committee said it believes that the task of defending Arab territory against the U.S. invaders is the basic task today regardless of the nature of the Iraqi regime and its responsibility for the crisis.

The LCP Central Committee said that pan-Arab and nationalist parties in all the Arab countries must take up their positions in this confrontation. Addressing nationalist Arab regimes, particularly Syria, the Libyan Jamahiriyah, Algeria, Yemen, the PLO, the intifadah leadership, and the factions of the Palestinian revolution, it urged them to adopt a unified, leading, and effective stand to save the situation and halt the deterioration in order to organize a collective confrontation of the U.S., Zionist, and imperialist aggression. The Central Committee urged the Arab League to adopt a policy that will

enable it to regain control of the crisis and seek to resolve it in a way that will benefit the Arab nation.

The LCP Central Committee condemned Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait. It said that this step contravenes the most basic principles of fraternity and the Arab people's right to self-determination. It declared that Iraq's action diverts attention from the Palestinian people's intifadah and the methods of supporting this intifadah. It added that this act diverted attention from the need to confront Jewish immigration, particularly from the Soviet Union. The Central Committee demanded that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait and urged seeking an interim Arab settlement under which the Arab people of Kuwait would be given the opportunity to determine their destiny and their country's future on their own.

The LCP Central Committee called for halting all destructive marginal battles, particularly in Iqlim al-Tuffah, and the whole regrettable Amal-Hizballah conflict. It warned those forces which are relying on changes in the situation in order to procrastinate and gain time to evade the reforms, the barest minimum of which were approved by the al-Ta'if agreement, that they are committing a fatal error against Lebanon. It warned that the attempt to revive privileges threatens to renew the civil war, the bloodshed, and all the war's tragedies—death, displacement, and destruction. In conclusion, the statement urged patriotic forces and the government to act promptly to resolve the rebellion issue, shoulder their responsibilities, do their utmost to approve the constitutional reforms provided for in the al-Ta'if agreement, and firmly confront obstructers and opponents of this enterprise.

Religious Leaders Denounce U.S. Presence in Gulf

LD1708185990 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT
17 Aug 90

[text] Beirut, Aug. 17, IRNA—Leading spiritual and political figures of Lebanon today denounced the growing U.S.-allied military presence in the Persian Gulf and called on Muslims to thwart foreign meddlings.

Vice-speaker of the Supreme Shi'ite Assembly Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din sent messages to Presidents Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran, Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria and other Muslim heads of state, urging them to make efforts to "end the Persian Gulf crisis and show the exit to the alien troops."

The speaker called the crisis resulting from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and its consequences, "a danger threatening the Muslim world."

In related news, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban of the Islamic Tawhid Movement felicitated Iranians and the Islamic Republic Government for Iraq's acceptance of the 1975 border accord which meets conditions for peace. He expressed hope that the "two Muslim peoples of Iran and Iraq would unite to rise against global arrogance and its regional lackey the illicit Zionist state of Israel."

He said "If all Muslims including the Arabs were to unite against imperialism and Zionism, countries such as the United States of America and Israel would no longer exist in the world."

Shaykh Sha'ban added "then we could make Saddam believe that Kuwait is an Arab country and not a base for U.S. forces."

In the western al-Biq'a valley the Palestinian resistance movement issued a statement Thursday [16 Aug] calling the arrival of U.S. forces to the Persian Gulf region "a grave danger to all liberation movements in the Middle East, the Intifadah in particular." It invited all Muslims to "join forces against the U.S. and to destroy the vested interests of international imperialists."

Another prominent Lebanese Sunni figure Shaykh Dhaha Sabunchi [name as received] said that with the acceptance of the Algiers Accord by Iraq, "the (imposed) war has come to its end."

Sabunchi the mufti of the northern Lebanese town of Tripoli also asked Saddam Hussayn to "pull out forces from Kuwait to prevent more bloodshed and devastation."

Al-Musawai on U.S. Invasion, Prisoners' Release

NC1608191190 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
14 Aug 90 p 3

[Text] Islamic Amal official Husayn al-Musawi has held Iraqi President Saddam Husayn responsible for "all the harm and risks to which our nation is currently being subjected through the U.S. and arrogant invasion." He added: "We denounce the occupation and annexation of Kuwait by the Iraqi regime, not out of concern for the Kuwaiti amirs who, like Saddam, are agents of colonialism and whose regime is corrupt, but out of concern for our nation and the need to preserve our holy places, which we hope will not be desecrated anew."

He added: "Therefore, as we will do, we urge our kin everywhere to confront the Saddamite aggression without seeking the help of the arrogance, and to confront the colonial U.S. invasion in every way that could remind them of the lesson taught by the sons of Islam in Lebanon, who forced the Americans, French, and multinational forces to leave their territories by means of martyrdom."

Regarding the Lebanese prisoners who were held in Kuwait, he said: "According to the latest news, we believe they are in Baghdad." "If Saddam is against the Americans as he claims to be—and we believe he is anti-Islam, anti-Arabism, and anti-humanity—and since these prisoners were in an anti-American position, then let him release them, if they are with him, to prove his claim."

He added: Their release does not mean the release of the Americans; I cannot say it means that, because if the prisoners are released, it will not be through the Americans. In the past, the Americans were required to pressure the rulers of Kuwait. As for the hostages in Lebanon, Britain, America, and Germany know how to make the Islamic groups release the hostages, and it concerns interests for the Muslims in Lebanon and Palestine.

Al-Musawi ruled out that "Saddam Husayn sincerely means the positions he has taken recently," and added that "the Americans will get rid of him when his mission is over."

Returnees Report Citizens in Kuwait 'Safe'

NC1908201990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1845 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Radio Free Lebanon has learned from Lebanese nationals who arrived from Kuwait this evening that all Lebanese in Kuwait are safe. About 40 cars arrived in Lebanon from Kuwait this evening carrying Lebanese families who lived there.

Citizens Arrive From Liberia; Envoy in Hiding

NC1908053490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] A Middle East Airlines plane arrived in Beirut from Freetown yesterday afternoon carrying 126 passengers, mostly Lebanese citizens who were residing in Liberia.

Reuter cited Lebanese in Liberia as saying that U.S. naval vessels continues to transport Lebanese workers from Monrovia to ships at sea before they left for Lebanon.

Reuter added that fierce fighting is now raging among the warring factions around the Lebanese Embassy in Liberia and that the Lebanese ambassador is now living in a hideout inside the embassy.

More Evacuees Return

NC2008180390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] A plane carrying some 150 Lebanese nationals, most of them women and children, who were evacuated from Sierra Leone arrived at Beirut airport today.

Syrian Forces Deploy in Southern Suburb Areas

NC2008165090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The Syrian forces have completed their deployment in the Southern Suburb areas where clashes broke out between Amal and Hizballah gunmen earlier today. The clashes left two people dead and 14 others wounded, according to the internal security forces' information. [passage omitted]

President's Efforts in Gulf Crisis Detailed

JN2008191890 Damascus Syrian Arab Television
Network in Arabic 1750 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] The SANA political editor writes: Since the beginning of the crisis triggered by the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait, the Syrian Arab Republic has made efforts to contain the crisis in its very beginnings and to find a solution within the Arab framework before the serious repercussions of the crisis escalate.

Since the first day of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, President Hafiz al-Asad quickly got in touch with several Arab presidents, calling for an emergency Arab summit expeditiously to avert the dangers looming in the horizon of the Arab homeland. However, some Arab brothers rushing in the opposite direction prevented a response to the sincere call addressed by his excellency. Thus, the crisis escalated and dangers grew with the continuation of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the arrival of foreign forces in the region.

President Hafiz al-Asad reiterated his sincere call to immediately convene an emergency Arab summit without delay. He made fresh contacts with Arab kings and presidents for this purpose, which led to an agreement to hold the conference in order to find an Arab solution which could restore to Arab efforts for a solution their effectiveness and influence and capability to defuse the explosion, reassure those who have become ridden with fear and worry, and eliminate the possibilities of foreign intervention.

Thus, the Cairo summit was convened at a time when dangers were escalating and aggravating, and entailed dangers for Iraq in particular, and the Arab homeland in general.

President Hafiz al-Asad spoke during the summit's closed session. He addressed a persevering, sincere call to save Iraq and other Arab countries. Part of what he said was: The situation is dangerous, very dangerous, and more dangerous than many imagine. We think we should avert the danger, because we are all threatened, foremost fraternal Iraq. When we say that Iraq is the first to be threatened, we cannot detach ourselves from any harm that might befall Iraq. When we feel there is a great danger that will harm Iraq, then we have to work to avert it.

The president added: I do not believe any one of you wants the foreigners to come to our country—even if they are friends. The event was responsible for the arrival of the foreigners, and not vice versa. The foreigners who came to the region were not responsible for the event; the event brought them to the region. If we want these foreigners to be out as soon as possible, we have to find a solution to this event as soon as possible so that we might not leave a pretext—especially if these foreign forces harbor malicious intentions. Let us deprive them of any pretext they might use.

All those whom I spoke to agreed that withdrawal from Kuwait should take place and that the legitimate Kuwaiti

Government should be restored. Thus, let us accomplish this, which will save us and save Iraq, which is in the forefront. If there is a conspiracy against Iraq, it must be against us all. This requires that we talk frankly, especially to our brothers in Iraq. Whatever there is between us, we will be afflicted by that which afflicts them—whether good or bad. Countering the danger begins with the withdrawal and the return of Kuwait to what it was. This is the fundamental basis for remedying the situation. Any attempt to bypass this fact will fail to lead us to the desired agreement, will not achieve our solidarity or trust, will not save Iraq from danger, and will not save Syria or any other Arab state from danger. President al-Asad went on with his call to save Iraq and the Arab region. He said: Let us talk frankly, the way one is frank with his brother, and concerned for his brother. The danger is coming. When the spark goes off, we might be of little benefit to each other—in fact, we might not be of any benefit late on. So, let us say the right thing at the right time, and let us take the right action at the right time. Let us agree that once Kuwait returns to the way it was, the forces that came into the region should pull out. In my estimation, no one will oppose this, and then the forces and those who sent the forces—whether in good or bad faith—will not have a pretext to reach their goals and remain as unwanted guests in our Arab homeland.

The president said in his call: We have to save ourselves quickly and without delay. The road is clear. Kuwait should return to the way it was—land, government, and everything in it—immediately. We have to struggle and to agree so that foreign forces may pull out or so that we might drive them out.

Following this sincere pan-Arab call to save Iraq and the nation from the danger brought by the invasion, the Cairo summit resolution was issued. The resolution called for a withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and a return of the legitimate conditions in Kuwait to what they were before the invasion. Prior to the Cairo summit, Syria's efforts and the contacts President al-Asad had with presidents of Arab, friendly, and foreign countries, centered on working to avert the danger menacing Iraq and the Arab region by implementing the Cairo summit resolutions.

Yemeni Official Arrives for Consultations

Carries Message From Salih

JN2008145690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Yemeni Presidential Council member 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani arrived in Damascus at 1300 today. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harabah, Information Minister Muhammad Salman, Yemeni Ambassador in Damascus Muhammad 'Abduh Shutfah, and the Yemeni Embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA, 'Abd-al-Ghani said: I am pleased to be in steadfast Syria to consult with our Syrian brothers. He added: I am bringing a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He concluded: I am here to consult on issues of mutual interest and on recent Arab and international developments.

'Abd-al-Ghani is accompanied by a delegation comprising Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, and Ahmad Salah, assistant director general of protocol.

Meets With President

JN2008190390 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1740 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Yemeni Presidential Council member, and Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, at 1700 today. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Yemeni Ambassador in Damascus Muhammad 'Abduh Shutfah.

'Abd-al-Ghani conveyed to the president a message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The president handed him a reply. The talk dealt with the developments of the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Departs 20 Aug

JN2108072890 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1748 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus, 20 Aug (SANA)—'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Yemeni Presidential Council member, left Damascus this evening following a short visit to Syria during which he conveyed a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah, Information Minister Muhammad Salman, Yemeni Ambassador in Damascus Muhammad 'Abduh Shutfah, and the Yemeni Embassy staff.

Al-Asad Receives King Fahd Letter, Sends Reply

JN2008185890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad today received Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Present at the meeting, which took up the Gulf situation, was Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Prince Sa'ud gave his excellency the president a letter from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. His excellency the president gave him a letter of reply.

Algerians Arrive for Coordination Talks

JN2008145190 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0845 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus, 20 Aug (INA)—An Algerian parliamentary delegation headed by Said Ayat Masudat [name as received], vice president of the National Assembly, arrived in Damascus today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic as part of the consultations and coordination between the parliaments of the two fraternal Arab countries in the service of joint objectives.

During the visit the delegation will hold talks on the consolidation of the existing fraternal relations between the two countries, especially in the parliamentary field. The delegation will discuss coordination between the two parliaments, especially under the current circumstances arising from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, in order to contain the results of the invasion and to curb the dangers to the regions' security and safety. The delegation will also discuss coordination to consolidate the solidarity and unity of Arab ranks and to safeguard the future and destiny of the Arab nation.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With PRC

JN1908185790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Damascus, 19 Aug (SANA)—An economic and technical cooperation agreement between Syria and the PRC was signed at the State Planning Organization today. Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs; the PRC charge d'affaires in Damascus; and members of the two delegations attended the signing ceremony.

The agreement was signed for Syria by Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, assistant planning minister and for the PRC by Li Lanqing, PRC vice minister for foreign economic relations and trade.

The agreement stipulates that the PRC will extend a loan to finance the execution of a number of vital projects within the framework of the economic and social development plan. This loan has easy terms. It is an interest-free and long-term loan. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Natural Gas Sales to USSR To Resume

BK1808053190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0405 GMT
18 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, Aug 18 (AFP)—Afghanistan is preparing to resume sales of its principal export, natural gas, to the Soviet Union after a ruinous two-year break that cut national income almost by half. The 110-kilometer (68 miles) long pipeline running from Sheberghan in Jowzjan Province to the Soviet border will start pumping gas into the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan by late 1990 or early 1991, Industry and Mines Minister Samad Salah said.

Sales of natural gas to the Soviet Union accounted for 47 percent of Afghanistan's national income at the time they were stopped in the days preceding the Soviet troop withdrawal completed in February 1989, Mr. Salah said.

"By the time the limited contingent of Soviet troops had withdrawn, their experts too had gone away," he said in a conversation with journalists a week after returning from an official visit to the Soviet Union. "This was the main reason for the stoppage," he said Wednesday, adding that the agreement to resume sales was reached during his talks with Soviet officials in Moscow.

Natural gas sales to the Soviet Union fetched Afghanistan the equivalent of 300 million dollars annually when wells producing for export were plugged, causing what the minister termed a "great and tremendous" economic crisis. "I have been asked this question many times—how we managed to survive," said Mr. Salah, 55. "We have suffered really huge damage because of this which is visible in every facet of our economy."

Finance Minister Muhammad Hakim had said earlier this month that government revenue fell by 20 percent and expenditures rose by 34 percent in the last financial year. Inflation stood at 34 percent and the gross national product fell by eight percent. Mr. Salah said Moscow had made good a part of the losses from the stoppage of natural gas sales by increasing aid, but added: "it was like a drop of water in the ocean."

The Soviet Union was the only customer of Afghan gas, Mr. Salah said. Some Afghan sources have in the past suggested that Moscow was exploiting Kabul by paying below the market rate which kept pace with rising oil prices. But Mr. Salah dismissed this. "It was a two-sided relationship and mutually beneficial," he said. The plugging of the wells followed fears of sabotage and attacks by the mujahidin resistance fighting to topple the Moscow-backed Kabul government. But gas installations were safe and had suffered no damage since the Soviet troop pullout, and Mr. Salah said no problems were foreseen in resuming supplies.

"This is a good piece of news," said the minister, a West German educated geologist by training. "Enshallah (God willing), we will not have any problem beginning the

supplies." In the first full year after resumption, Kabul expects to supply about 400 million cubic meters (14 billion cubic feet) of gas to Uzbekistan and hopes to raise it to 2.8 billion cubic meters (98 billion cubic feet) by 1995, Mr. Salah said. He said payment would be dictated by the prevailing market price, but that Kabul and Moscow had not yet discussed whether it would be in hard currency.

At the talks in Moscow the two sides also decided to undertake joint efforts in oil and gas exploration in Afghanistan, starting with feasibility studies in Balkh and Jowzjan Provinces. Technical collaboration in the mining of coal and salt and production of cement are expected, he said, adding that joint ventures with third countries were also being contemplated. Efforts would be made to increase gas production and tap reserves, estimated by geological surveys to stand at some 110 to 120 billion cubic meters (3.85 trillion to 4.2 trillion cubic feet), he said.

"There is a great potential for prosperity, but the continuing war situation has prevented us from exploiting it," the minister said. "Regrettably peace is not something we can mine and put on the table."

Independence Day Low-Key Without Najibullah

BK1908135690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1337 GMT
19 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, Aug 19 (AFP)—The Afghan Government observed Independence Day with little ceremony Sunday in the absence of President Najibullah, as its Armed Forces pounded resistance positions in the mountains surrounding the capital. Official observance of the nation's 71st anniversary of independence was limited to ministers signing a book honoring the memory of heroes of the liberation.

No public celebrations were held to mark the day, a government holiday. Kabul television broadcast warnings to soldiers not to fire festive volleys in the air, apparently to avoid panic. Government troops fired a barrage of Soviet-made Uragon missiles at rebel positions in the surrounding mountains, used by the resistance as their main rocket launching bases to hit the city. At least 25 of the government rockets were fired in the direction of the Paghman Mountains, some 20 kilometers (12 miles) northwest of the city by midday Sunday.

Deputy Defence Minister Sayeed Azam, who holds the rank of colonel-general, said Elite National Guard troopers had launched an operation in the Argandy region south of Paghman, but gave no details.

Independence day fell as Mr. Najibullah was in the Soviet Union on what has been described as a "rest and recreation" visit for an unprecedented three weeks. The president flew to the Soviet Union on July 29 ahead of talks between Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Siberia which dealt with the Afghan conflict.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sunday that Mr. Najibullah was expected to return sometime this week. In his absence, Acting President Abdul Rahim Hatif delivered the traditional Independence Day eve speech to the nation Saturday night, calling for an end to the 12-year-long Afghan war and urging a halt to foreign interference spurring the conflict on. He relayed Mr. Najibullah's greetings to the nation and his wishes for "peace and prosperity to the suffering people of Afghanistan."

In a commentary the state-owned Kabul Times said Independence Day was being celebrated with the "moral and objective ground" paved for the cessation of war and the restoration of peace. The commentary was seen here as a reference to the recent changes carried out by Mr. Najibullah, including an overhaul of the constitution to remove its communist nuances and steps to deradicalise his Soviet-backed party and give it a centrist orientation. The U.S. and Pakistani backed mujahidin resistance have rejected the Kabul government's overtures to form a coalition government, dubbing the Najibullah government a "Soviet puppet regime."

Hatif Gives Speech

LD1908095390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0445 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Speech by 'Abdul Rahim Hatif, acting president of the Republic of Afghanistan, broadcast by radio and television on 19 August, "on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of regaining the Afghan independence"]

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 18, BAKHTAR—The experience in one and a half years ago showed that despite the complete withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, foreign interferences have still been continuing into the internal affairs of Afghanistan in contradiction with the Geneva agreements and other international legal standards. The question of the return of the Afghan refugees has not been solved in a comprehensive and reliable manner. In some part of the country armed clashes are continuing and Afghans are being killed almost every day, he [Hatif] stressed.

Those who hold covetous eyes on Afghanistan and intervene impudently into its affairs should learn lessons from history and perceive the facts that the Afghans do not accept the interference of foreigners whatever powerful it may be and are prepared to defend their national honour with their own blood. Likewise, we are addressing those leaders of the groups and other elements who are dealing with governments [word indistinct] circles to be aware of the consequences arising from the nation's accountability, Hatif stated.

We are sure that the heroic armed forces of the RA including the Army of Afghanistan which have had a significant role in the restoration and safeguarding of the country's independence holds in high esteem more than anything else the independence of the country and are

prepared with high patriotic morale and combat preparedness to defend every inches of their soil against foreign aggressors and interventionists.

While the government of the RA, the Afghan acting president emphasized, based on the policy of national reconciliation, continues negotiation for reaching a just solution for the Afghan issue and are eager to have friendly relations with all neighbouring countries on the basis of the principle of respect to independence, territorial integrity and non-interference into each other affairs, it gives the highest priority to defend the country's independence and to safeguard the high interest of people and country.

Aug. 19, 1990 corresponds with the 71st anniversary of the regaining of the independence of the country, this historical day, narrates brave struggles of the patriotic people of Afghanistan for the gaining of the independence of their country, has open a shiny chapter in the history of Afghanistan.

Says 'Abdul Rahim Hatif acting president of the Republic of Afghanistan in his today's radio-tv speech broadcasted on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of regaining the Afghan independence.

First of all on behalf of the state of the RA and on my own, I extend my best congratulations to all Afghans wherever they reside. Also, as care-taker of the post of presidency, I consider as my duty to convey best congratulations and wishes of Najibullah, president of the RA to all compatriots residing inside and outside the country.

Prominent and patriotic figures such as Wazir Muhammad Akbar Khan, Mir Masjedi Khan Kuhistani, 'Abdullah Khan Achakzai, Mir Bacha Khan Kuhdmani, Muhammad Usman Khan Tagabi, 'Aminullah Khan Logari, Mullah Mushk Alam, Wardaki, Na'ib Salar Hafizullah Khan Herati, Esmatullah Khan Jabar Khayl and others under whose their commands more than ten thousands patriotic Afghans struggled against British imperialism and showed bravery and valour in the battle fields and left behind great epics, for which the present generation are prideful, Hatif said.

These achievements and epics will be as eternal torches for the future generations of the country. The history is always witnessed that whenever the independence, national sovereignty and national unity of the Afghans were facing with danger, the people of Afghanistan have unitedly defended the legacy of their forefathers and ancestors, Hatif added.

It was in the [word indistinct] of powerful freedom loving sentiments of the Afghans that 'Amir Amkmullah Khan, even prior to the signing of peace treaty of Rawalpindi, resulted in recognition the independence of Afghanistan, started his independent policy. He through the issuing of a number of statements inside the country

which were conveying good news for the full independence of the country, maintained his relations with a number of countries.

Also, this patriotic leader introduced a series of reforms in different spheres of the Afghan society, Hatif stressed.

But, with much regret it must be said that our people as in the past decade, mark their independence under such conditions which the evil shadow of war, bloodletting and plunder govern in our war-weary country. All kinds of foreign interventions including armed interventions continue against Afghanistan. This condition not only threatens independence, national unity and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, but, all our belongings too, Hatif emphasized.

Gorbachev Sends Najibullah Message

LD1908093990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0442 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 18, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan has received a message of congratulations from M.S. Gorbachev president of the Soviet Union, on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the independence of Afghanistan, due to be marked on August 19, 1990.

The message while expressing sincere congratulations of the president of the Soviet Union and the Soviet people on the said occasion reads in part: That the Soviet Union is decisively supporting the tendencies and the peaceful endeavors of patriotic Afghans for the cessation of war and fratricide, achieving national reconciliation and political solution of the Afghan issue and establishment of a non-aligned and neutral Afghanistan, living peacefully with their neighboring countries.

I wish victories for the friendly people of Afghanistan in their struggle for reaching national reconciliation and tranquillity in the territory of Afghanistan, concluded the message.

Najibullah Replies

LD1908094290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0501 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 18, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], has sent a reply message to Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the Soviet Union, thanking on behalf of the people of Afghanistan and on his own for his message communicated on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the restoration of the independence of Afghanistan.

President Najibullah expressed confidence in the message to the government of the RA with the cooperation of other patriotic forces will continue its indefatigable efforts for reaching a just solution to the Afghan issue aimed at the termination of war and ensuring nationwide peace.

We hold in high esteem, the message continues, your assistance in reaching a just solution to the Afghan question and for the valuable assistance of the Soviet Union to the people of Afghanistan. At the end, President Najibullah in his message has wished good health and further success for the Soviet leader and for the Soviet people as well.

Najibullah Issues Decree on Private Property

LD2108085390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0424 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, Aug 20, BAKHTAR—Private properties such as residential houses and apartments under the government immunity will be given to their owners, say a decree of President Najibullah issued recently. The decree says that in honour of the 71st anniversary of the regaining of independence of the country, realisation of the National Reconciliation Policy, creation of a climate of trust and confidence in the country, observation of the orders of the sacred religion of Islam and in accordance with the Article 3 and 12 of decree, number 89,31,3,1990 of the presidency the Government has adopted this decision, the decree adds.

Based on this decree endorsed in 12 articles, owners of the immovable properties of private entities will be repatriated to their owners, heirs, custodians or to the representative of their owners on the delivery of legal documents proving his ownership and registered in related state offices, it remarks.

If such houses or apartments are being used by state institutions should be evacuated within four months. The Article six remarks that if the owner has been died, his property will be given to his heir-at-law. If the owners or his heirs do not refer to concerned court, house or apartment will be given to the said court. The Article eight of the presidential decree remarks [passage indistinct].

Wakil Holds Talks With Swiss Officials

LD2008085190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0427 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 19, BAKHTAR—Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) who had paid an official and friendly visit to Swiss, had a meeting with R. Filber, member of the Federative Council and minister of foreign affairs of Swiss Confederation in the Federative Palace of that country recently.

During the meeting, A. Wakil informed his counterpart on the politico-military situation in Afghanistan, recent developments as well as peaceful proposals of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, aimed at peaceful settlement of the Afghan issue, and cessation of war and fratricide in the country.

Likewise, A. Wakil while emphasising on the need of further expansion of relations and cooperations between

the Republic of Afghanistan and the Swiss confederation, wished rendering of all-out cooperations of Swiss-confederation as a neutral country for the rehabilitation of Afghanistan.

Reciprocally R. Filber while supporting the peaceful and political solution of the Afghan issue pledged the cooperation of his country in agriculture, public health and cultural fields to the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to another report, Abdul Wakil attended lately in a banquet arranged on his honour by Klaus Jacobi state minister for external affairs of Swiss confederation.

During his speech in the banquet, Klaus Jacobi promised all-sided assistance of his country to Afghanistan in the framework of the UN Salam operation programme for the resettlement of the Afghan refugees and revival of economic projects in Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Destroy Regime Plane at Khowst Airport

*BK1908134490 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES
in English 19 Aug 90 p 6*

[Text] Khowst—The Mujahidin of Jihad Wal Ghund of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan (Hekmatyar), destroyed a Russian-made Kabul regime military transport plane at the Khowst airport early on Saturday [18 August].

Haji Miaki Jan, Afghan news agency correspondent from Miranshah, reported that the transport plane had flown to Khowst for inducting military supplies but immediately after landing at the airport the plane was hit by a shell of DC cannons fired by the Mujahidin. As a result the plane was completely destroyed and its three pilots and five army personnel were killed on the spot.

This is the third transport plane of the Kabul regime which was destroyed by the Mujahidin of Jihad Wal Ghund during the current month. Earlier, on Aug. 10 and 7 similar transport planes were rammed by Sukkur 20 missiles fired by the same Mujahidin.

General Details Missile, Arms Seizure in Paghman

*LD2008200190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 20 Aug 90*

[Text] Achievements of the armed forces in the recent mopping-up and combat operations in the district of Baghman were explained this afternoon by General Mohammad Nabi Azimi, general commander of the Kabul garrison, at a press conference held at Stor Palace in the Foreign Ministry. According to a BIA military report, at the conference—attended by domestic and foreign journalists and military and cultural attaches of friendly embassies in Kabul—General Mohammad Nabi Azimi spoke about the mopping-up, and purging operations of the armed forces in Paghman district. He said: In the course of the operations, 1,017 Sakar-20 and Sakar-30 surface-to-surface rockets, 1,692 missiles, 1,644 recoilless weapon shells, 3,600 mortar shells, 25 weapons and ammunition depots, and thousands of rounds of

assorted ammunition for light weapons were captured. During the operations, hundreds of extremists, including 10 Wahhabi mercenaries were killed and hundreds of other were injured.

At the end, journalists asked their questions which were answered by General Mohammad Nabi Azimi.

Bangladesh

Iraq Ready To Release 443 Bangladeshis

*BK2008142290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1352 GMT
20 Aug 90*

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 20 (AFP)—Iraq has said it is ready to release 443 Bangladeshis held captive in Baghdad, a senior official said here Monday. But Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan said Dhaka was withholding a decision on their evacuation pending clarification on whether they were being expelled.

Mr. Ahsan told reporters the situation in Iraq was unchanged, but Baghdad has "indicated that our citizens could be allowed to leave if Dhaka arranged their evacuation." Dhaka had sought clarification on their families, belongings and savings, he said.

These Bangladeshis, who were working in Kuwaiti defence installations, were arrested after Iraqi troops invaded the tiny emirate August 2 and subsequently held captive in Baghdad. Baghdad was still refusing consular services for the captives despite repeated requests, Mr. Ahsan said, but added that he had been assured of their safety.

The foreign secretary said he had no knowledge about citizens employed in Baghdad or Kuwait being prevented from leaving, although the flow has been greatly cut during the last few days. Some 80,000 Bangladeshis were in Iraq and Kuwait at the time of the invasion.

Nine people in two cars with valid travel documents reached Jordan on Sunday, he added, quoting a senior Bangladeshi diplomat in Amman, where 44 Bangladeshi nationals have taken shelter. Meanwhile, a Foreign Office spokesman said Monday that the national flag carrier Biman would start evacuating from August 22 more than 6,000 Bangladeshis sheltered in Saudi Arabia after fleeing Kuwait.

Troop Dispatch to Saudi Arabia Criticized

*BK2108103890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0947 GMT
21 Aug 90*

[By Golam Tahaboor]

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 21 (AFP)—Bangladesh President Husayn Mohammad Ershad on Tuesday summoned a special session of parliament to discuss the Gulf crisis as critics slammed his decision to send troops to Saudi Arabia. Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed said the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) would meet Saturday morning to discuss the Gulf and indicated that the

government's decision last week to send a token contingent of troops to Saudi Arabia would come up for debate before a final decision was taken.

"We have just taken a decision... We have not sent troops as yet," Mr. Ahmed said in reference to criticism of the decision, adding that the decision would be implemented only if the parliament approved the move. The media and opposition parties have criticised the government's August 15 announcement that it had agreed to a request by Saudi King Fahd to send an unspecified number of troops to Saudi Arabia for defensive purposes.

Press reports and diplomatic sources here speculated that the force could be as small as 200 or as large as 7,000. The decision followed the visit here by Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Tunian, during which he delivered a message from King Fahd to Mr. Ershad.

A two-man military team headed by Major General Abdul Wahed left for Riyadh after the announcement and is still there to work out the details with Saudi authorities, officials said. Some political leaders and newspapers have contested the government decision, saying it can only be taken by the parliament, and warned of potentially devastating consequences for the tens of thousands of Bangladeshi workers stranded in Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait.

Begum Khaleda Zia of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party protested the decision, arguing that the Constitution bars the government from declaring war or to "take part in any war without the sanction of the parliament." A group of Bangladeshi lawyers in a published statement also challenged the legality of the decision, noting that since a situation of war prevailed in the Gulf, sending troops there under any pretext could be interpreted as taking part in the war.

Nirmal Sen, a leader of the five-party left alliance, deplored the decision, saying it was like fighting a "war for the capitalists." The pro-Moscow Communist Party CPB in a statement demanded immediate reversal of the decision, saying it would unnecessarily involve this South Asian nation in the Gulf crisis. The opposition Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed offered no public comment but its senior leader and former foreign minister Abdus Samad Azad reportedly opposed the decision, saying that Bangladesh could send troops only for peace-keeping purposes within the framework of the United Nations.

Bangladeshi troops were earlier invited by the United Nations to Namibia and to monitor the ceasefire following the Iran-Iraq war.

The government earlier defended its decision saying it was in keeping with the country's commitment to help a friend in need. "This is not an individual decision and we have not taken a hostile position against anybody," Foreign Secretary Abdul Ahsan said.

Some 100 protestors from a group calling itself "Guardians of the Expatriate Bangladeshis in Kuwait and Iraq" held a rally here Monday protesting the decision and calling for immediate repatriation of Bangladeshi nationals from the troubled Gulf.

More than 75,000 Bangladeshis, mostly workers, were in Kuwait and another 25,000 were in Iraq when Iraq invaded on August 2, Mr. Ershad said last week at an official meeting to discuss the Gulf situation.

More than 6,500 of the stranded Bangladeshis have fled both countries and taken shelter in Saudi Arabia and Jordan over the past few days, and the Bangladesh Government said their repatriation would start Wednesday. Official sources said Biman is expected to operate special flights from Riyadh Wednesday to ferry the Bangladeshis now in Saudi Arabia.

1,000 Students Rally for Free Kashmir 17 Aug

BK1708172490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1558 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 17 (AFP)—At least 1,000 students belonging to a rightist Bangladeshi political party Friday demonstrated against Indian "atrocities" in the strife-torn Jammu and Kashmir state, witnesses said.

Members of the Islamic Chatra Shibir (ICS) held a protest rally after Friday Moslem mass prayers outside the Baitul Mukarram national mosque and demanded that India end repressive measures in the Moslem-dominated state.

They chanted slogans "Down with (Indian prime minister) Vishwanath Pratap Singh" and "Free our Moslem brothers in Kashmir." Kashmiri Moslem militants are campaigning for a separate state, and New Delhi has vowed to crush them.

ICS is the student wing of the rightist Jamaat-e-Islami party.

The protestors marched through major streets as riot police followed them in trucks, but no incidents were reported, witnesses and police said.

India

U.S. Helps Evacuate 330 Persons From Liberia

BK1708170790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] India has evacuated 330 persons of its origin from the civil war-torn Liberia with the U.S. assistance. All the evacuated persons have been airlifted by the U.S. helicopters to Freetown in Sierra Leone. Indian authorities at Freetown will help them make their onward journey for their destinations.

A press release of the external affairs ministry says that a 100 more persons of Indian origin are still left in Liberia.

The government is in touch with the authorities of the United States, Nigeria, and Ghana to evacuate the rest.

Saudi Arabia Assures Government on Oil Supply

*BK2008152690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 20 Aug 90*

[Text] The Saudi ambassador in India, Mr. Fu'ad Mufti [title as heard], has said that India will not face any oil problem as a result of the current gulf crisis. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, he said his government is prepared to increase its oil production from 5.5 million barrels to 7.5 million barrels per day to meet the international demands and to stabilize the oil prices.

Singh Comments on Pakistan, Sri Lanka Ties

*BK1708164090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Aug 90*

[Text] The prime minister said India is against the use of violence to settle any international dispute. Addressing the National Front parliament party meeting in New Delhi today, Mr. V.P. Singh expressed concern over the Gulf situation, which he said is very complex. He said that the external affairs minister, Mr. Gujral, and the energy minister, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, are currently visiting the Gulf countries to ensure, among other things, the safety of Indians living in Kuwait. He said the government has made plans for chartering special planes and ships to evacuate Indians in distress as soon as travel facilities are restored.

The prime minister briefed the members on India's relations with neighbors. He said Islamabad should demonstrate its peaceful intentions and stop support to secessionist elements. This, he said, is necessary for better bilateral ties. On Sri Lanka, Mr. Singh said the first priority is to ensure the safety of Tamils living in that country.

The prime minister referred to the rising international oil prices and underlined the need for stepping up the petroleum conservation drive. He said the government is considering a proposal to ban the use of official vehicles once a week as the government departments account for bulk consumption. The National Front parliamentary party spokesman, who briefed newsmen after the meeting, said that Mr. V.P. Singh had pledged to implement all the poll promises by the end of the year.

The Parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. P. Upendra, who also spoke at the meeting, said that the government wants all the bills slated for consideration passed even by extending the monsoon session, if necessary. He deprecated what he called the Congress-I attempts to block all important bills, particularly those relating to the National Front's manifesto.

On Gulf, Regional Issues

*BK1808161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Aug 90*

[Excerpts] India is opposed to any unilateral or multilateral armed action in the Gulf. Stating this the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, said India has always been against a military solution to international conflicts. Stressing that the situation in the Gulf is causing great anxiety, Mr. Singh felt that the United Nations is the proper forum for a political settlement of the issue. The prime minister was answering questions at a luncheon meeting hosted in his honor by foreign affairs correspondents in New Delhi today. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on the Nonaligned Movement's action to defuse the Gulf situation, the prime minister said they can express their views at the UN forum. We will go by the response of the UN Security Council.

On India-Pakistan relations, the prime minister ruled out the possibility of upgrading at this stage the level of the India-Pakistan talks as suggested by the Pakistan's caretaker prime minister. Pakistan has to spell out its long-term objective, he added. Mr. Singh reiterated that Kashmir is an internal matter of India and wanted all outstanding problems between the two countries to be settled bilaterally within the framework of the Simla Accord.

Replying to a question about the progress made on India's proposal to set up refugees camps in Sri Lanka, Mr. Singh said he has been told that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is not agreeable. He wanted Colombo to fulfill the democratic aspirations of Tamils as this is the only way of ending the ethnic conflict in that country. He also wanted the LTTE to give up violence and work within the democratic framework.

Asked about the forthcoming meeting of India-China Joint Working Group, Mr. Singh said there is a will on both sides to resolve the boundary issue. Such matters take time. He stressed the need for widening the spectrum of inter-action with China in various fields.

Asks Pakistan To Condemn Separatism

*BK1908164590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1625 GMT
19 Aug 90*

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 19 (AFP)—Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh Sunday asked Pakistan to publicly denounce Sikh and Muslim separatism in India to back claims that it did not support them. Mr. V.P. Singh told reporters on board an Indian Air Force plane that Pakistan should say publicly that it opposed the bloody separatist campaigns in India's Kashmir and Punjab states.

"Pakistan should openly condemn the terrorist activities and announce on radio and TV (television) that it had nothing to do with terrorists in Kashmir and Punjab," the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoted him as saying. Mr. V.P. Singh, who was flying to the frontier

areas of Punjab, said: "We have made it clear that if Pakistan takes one step to normalise relations (with India), we will take two."

New Delhi accuses Islamabad of arming Sikh and Muslim separatists in India. Pakistan has repeatedly denied the charge.

Mr. V.P. Singh, making his second visit to the troubled Punjab since becoming prime minister eight months ago, added that it was time for India and Pakistan—which have fought three wars—to "bury the hatchet". "If Iran and Iraq who fought a bitter war for eight years could bury the hatchet, why can't India and Pakistan do so now?" the news agency reported him as asking.

Later, addressing a gathering of Sikh villagers in Punjab's Amritsar District, the prime minister said he planned a "foot march" through the state's villages "to win the hearts of the people with love". "Either I will return (to New Delhi) with the love of Punjab people or if I am killed, my body should be buried here in Punjab," he told a public meeting at Lopoke town, near the border with Pakistan.

PTI said Mr. V.P. Singh also addressed officers and men of the federal Border Security Force (BSF) at Lopoke, visited an Army camp nearby, and mingled freely with groups of people on his return trip to the Amritsar airport. At least 1,495 people have been killed in Punjab so far this year in violence linked to a Sikh militant campaign for a homeland called Khalistan, or land of the pure.

Mr. V.P. Singh has called for an all-party meeting next week, the fourth since he took office, to discuss the possibility of holding elections in Punjab which like Kashmir is now under federal rule. The Khalistan campaign erupted in 1983, but intensified after the June 1984 assault by Indian troops on Amritsar's Golden Temple, Sikhdom's holiest shrine, to flush out Sikh militants. Some 600 people, mostly innocent pilgrims, were reportedly killed in the operation which triggered the October 1984 assassination of then Premier Indira Gandhi by two of her Sikh bodyguards.

Visits Punjab Border Areas

*BK1908094290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 19 Aug 90*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said that he has full faith in the people of Punjab and he is sure that they will do everything possible to preserve the honor and pride of the country. Addressing a public meeting in the village Lopoke near the border in Amritsar District this afternoon, the prime minister said that he would like to visit more areas in the state after the current parliament session and involve the people in finding solutions to the Punjab problem. He said what Punjab needs is love and not the bullet. Recalling his earlier visit to Harmandir Sahib [main shrine in the Golden Temple], Mr. V.P. Singh said the country has full faith in Sikhs.

In response to some of the demands made by the villagers at the public meeting, the prime minister gave on-the-spot approval for the setting up of a sugar mill and an ITI [Industrial Training Institute] in Lopoke. He said the government has prepared a plan to provide employment to one lakh of unemployed youth in the state. The prime minister inaugurated a scheme, known as Center for Training and Employment of Border Youth, under which 10,000 youth of the border districts of Ferozepore, Amritsar and Gurdaspur will be provided special training.

Earlier, he visited the border areas in the Amritsar sector of Punjab. Addressing the BSF jawans [Border Security Force soldiers] at the border post, Mr. V.P. Singh said the whole nation is behind them in the noble cause of defending the borders and providing security to the country. On the way from Amritsar to the border areas, the prime minister stopped at a number of places and talked to the people. Our special correspondent, Ratan Salve, accompanying the prime minister said the main purpose of Mr. V.P. Singh's visit to the border areas in Punjab is to have first-hand information and views from the people on the steps taken by the government to restore peace in the state.

Clashes Increase in Nagaland Tribal Villages

Nineteen Killed

*BK1808150890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 18 Aug 90*

[Text] In Nagaland, 19 people have been killed, mostly women and children, and several others injured in a clash between two tribal communities in Tobu and Sachu villages in Tuensang District. Official sources said in Kohima today that about 100 armed miscreants suddenly attacked the villages last night and beheaded innocent people. A large number of houses were also set ablaze rendering hundreds of villagers homeless.

More Killings Reported

*BK1908082090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 19 Aug 90*

[Text] In Nagaland, seven more persons were killed in Tobu and Sachu villages in Tuensang District yesterday in an attack by hundreds of armed youths. As reported earlier, 26 people were killed on Friday [17 August] in the same villages by armed youth. Our Kohima correspondent reports that tension is mounting in Sachu and Tobu villages as hundreds of armed youths have gathered in these places. Efforts are on to deploy additional police force in the villages to bring the situation under control.

'Shoot-at-Sight' Orders Issued

*BK2108051890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 21 Aug 90*

[Text] In Nagaland, shoot-at-sight orders were issued and prohibitory orders promulgated yesterday in the

Tobu area of Tuensang District, following reports of fresh incidents of violence. The acting chief minister, Mr. I.K. Sema told newsmen in Kohima that the security measures in the area have been intensified to prevent repetition of the intertribe clashes, which has claimed at least 40 lives since Friday.

Conflict, Violence at Pakistan Border Intensifies

Radio, TV Strengthened

*BK1808093890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 18 Aug 90*

[Text] Radio and TV transmissions are being strengthened in Punjab, particularly in the border areas. Addressing newspaper editors in Jullundur today, the minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. P. Upendra, said two TV transmitters of 10 KW each at Amritsar and one at Fazilka would soon be completed. He said two FM local radio stations at Bhatinda and Patiala have already been commissioned. Mr. Upendra also said that 300 KW transmitter at Jullundur is being set up soon to replace the old one and the TV studio at Chandigarh would be ready in the next three years.

Appreciating the positive role played by the vernacular press under various pressures, the minister assured all possible help by the government. He said the government is committed to the freedom of the press and will continue to give concessions to small and medium newspapers. Mr. Upendra also said that the government is considering an increase of about 30 percent in the advertisement rates being given to the newspapers. Editors of over a dozen vernacular newspapers of Jullundur participated in the discussion. The minister also talked to them individually about their problems.

The minister's visit to Jullundur is in pursuance of the prime minister's direction to his cabinet colleagues to visit Punjab to help accelerate the process of normalization for which several initiatives are already underway. Later, during the day the minister is scheduled to visit Chandigarh also. He is accompanied by the secretary of information and broadcasting, Mr. Suresh Mathur, and other senior officers from the ministry.

Police Station Hit

*BK1908145490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 19 Aug 90*

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, security forces have arrested five Pakistan-trained terrorists from Srinagar and one from Rajaori in Jammu division. In Srinagar, Saura police station was attacked with rockets by terrorists. But no loss of life has been reported. A school building and some residential houses were gutted in a devastating fire in the Karan Nagar locality. The cause of the fire is being investigated. Two bullet-ridden bodies were recovered—one each from Baramula and Kupwara districts. Reports of bomb blast and cross firing have also come in from different parts of the valley.

Two Policemen Killed in Punjab

*BK2008033690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 20 Aug 90*

[Text] In Punjab, three terrorists and two policeman are among the eight persons killed in separate incidents last night. In two separate incidents in Amritsar District, terrorists shot dead two persons in Sultanwin area and kidnapped three brothers of deputy superintendent of policeman, an Arjun Award winner and Asian gold medalist wrestler Kartar Singh from his village. In Faridkot District, two security personnel were killed, two injured and two are missing following an ambush by terrorists near village Dadiwal. According to an official spokesman three terrorists were killed in an encounter with BSF [Border Security Force] near the border in village Murawa in Amritsar District.

Pakistani Troops Shell Indian Posts

*BK2008124690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1234 GMT 20 Aug 90*

[Text] In a sudden development this morning, Pakistani troops resorted to heavy artillery shelling on Indian posts in the Kupwara sector in Jammu and Kashmir. The troops used both high explosives and incendiary ammunition. A Defense Ministry press release in New Delhi said appropriate defensive measures have been taken following the incident. It pointed out that though minor exchange of fire across the line of actual control is a frequent occurrence, heavy artillery was used only today. The press release further says that there has been an increase in infiltration in the Kupwara sector and militants have stepped up their activities against the security forces during the last few weeks.

Using Heavy Artillery

*BK2008150690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 20 Aug 90*

[Text] In a sudden development this morning, Pakistani troops resorted to heavy artillery shelling on Indian posts in the Kupwara sector in Jammu and Kashmir. The troops used both high explosives and incendiary ammunition. A Defense Ministry press release in New Delhi said that appropriate defense measures have been taken following the incident. It pointed out that though minor exchange of fire across the line of actual control is a frequent occurrence, heavy artillery were used in today's incident. It is understood that in today's firing, the shells came nearly 500 meters into Indian territory. Reports of casualties, if any, are not immediately available.

Informed sources at New Delhi attribute the Pakistani move to various factors, including Islamabad's intention to extract money and weaponry from the United States and the Arab countries.

Six Soldiers Among 12 Killed

BK2108052390 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 21 Aug 90

[Text] In Punjab, 12 persons, including six security force personnel, have been killed in separate incidents since yesterday. According to an official spokesman, terrorists struck at a village police post in Dhariwal area of Gurdaspur District early this morning, killing six jawans [soldiers] and injuring another four. The terrorists took away seven rifles and ammunition from the post.

Meanwhile, the official spokesman clarified that only one brother of Arjuna Award winner and Asian gold medalist in wrestling, DSP [Deputy Superintendent of Police] Kartar Singh, was kidnapped by the terrorists, and not three as reported earlier. He said that the kidnapped brother has since returned home.

Five Said Killed in Shelling

BK2108124890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1239 GMT
21 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Aug 21 (AFP)—Indian shelling killed at least five farmers Tuesday in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, witnesses said, as Indian and Pakistani forces traded artillery fire for the second straight day.

(Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh confirmed that the artillery duel was continuing across the line of control in disputed Kashmir, but said it was no cause for "undue concern.")

(The directors general of military operations of both countries were in touch with each other, the premier told parliament in New Delhi, adding that he hoped "these localized incidents will be contained and the situation defused.")

Pakistani officials said sporadic exchange of fire was occurring almost daily along the line dividing Kashmir, but they would neither confirm nor deny that villagers had been killed. "We don't report civilian losses," a Defence Ministry source here said.

Witnesses said Indian gunners unleashed almost simultaneous barrages early Tuesday against three villages along the River Neelam, which forms the line of control in that section of Kashmir. The five killed were farmers working in fields, including one woman, witnesses said, while two government officials injured in the attack were admitted to a military hospital in the state capital Muzaffarabad.

The incident was the latest in a series of clashes reported this month.

India Monday accused Pakistani gunners of opening fire with incendiary and high explosive artillery shells in the Kupwara section of the line of control, and said that Indian troops had taken "appropriate" action. No definitive casualty count was given, though Indian military sources have said that 10 Pakistani troopers were killed and another five wounded Monday. [passage omitted]

The actual Line of Control drawn after the last Indo-Pakistan war in 1971, divides Pakistani- and Indian-controlled Kashmir. The Himalayan region has been under bitter dispute and the cause of two wars between India and Pakistan since the partition of the subcontinent in 1947, and fears of a new war over Kashmir have been rife for the past four months. India accuses Pakistan of fuelling a bloody secessionist campaign in Indian-controlled Kashmir, the country's only Moslem-majority state. Pakistan denies the charges, but supports the militants in international fora.

Prime Minister on Kashmir Border Shooting

BK2108121690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1135 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, today categorically stated in the Lok Sabha that our forces are fully prepared to effectively deal with any eventuality. He said in a statement that the exchange of fire in the Kupwara sector on the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir which began yesterday is continuing, but is confined to the (Machal) sub sector. He said the Pakistani forces commenced artillery fire at a number of our posts in the sub sector, and our troops in the area retaliated with appropriate fire. The prime minister however assured the house that there is no cause for any undue concern since India trusts that these localized incidents will be contained and the situation defused. He said as per the existing arrangements, directors general of military operations of the two countries are in touch with each other. Mr. V.P. Singh expressed the hope that there will be no recurrence of such incidents and that Pakistan will realize the need to fully abide by the Simla Agreement. He said this will be in keeping with the dialogue which India has initiated with Pakistan.

Giving details, the prime minister said there have been continued attempts of infiltration by Pakistan-trained terrorists in recent months in the Kupwara sector. He said that recently our troops noted an intrusion in the (Machal) sub sector which is situated opposite village Kel in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. On the 12th of this month, our troops took appropriate action and eliminated this intrusion. The Pakistani army attempted to interfere with these operations, using heavy weapons, including mortars and artillery. The prime minister said our troops succeeded in entirely clearing this area of the intrusion. He said this incident was reported by the Pakistani media as an attack by Indian troops on their post in the area. This was refuted by us. After a lull, the Pakistani forces again started firing in the subsector yesterday.

Parliamentarians Call for Sealing Pakistan Border

BK2008164390 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Members of the Lok Sabha today asked the government to completely seal the border with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir to effectively check terrorist and

secessionist activities in the state. While conceding the need for giving certain special powers to the Armed Forces to deal with the situation, they said it should be ensured that no innocent people are put to any difficulties. Members were participating in a combined discussion on a statutory resolution seeking approval of the president's rule in Jammu and Kashmir and a bill regarding special powers to the Armed Forces in the state. The bill seeks to replace an ordinance promulgated recently.

Members belonging to the ruling front and its supporting parties stressed the need for a collective endeavor by all political parties to bring the people in Kashmir into the national mainstream. Initiating the discussion, Mr. Jaswant Singh, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], who also moved a resolution disapproving the ordinance, cautioned the government not to treat the Kashmir problem as a mere law and order one as Pakistan is engaged in a proxy war to destabilize India.

The Congress-I members said the situation in the state can be improved only by bringing a civilian administration under the control of political authority.

Members from both sides decried attempts by Pakistan to internationalize and Islamicize the Kashmir issue. They wanted the government to take steps to ensure security to the people so that those who had left the valley can return to their homes.

A National Conference member termed the Jammu and Kashmir Armed Forces special powers bill a draconian measure and tore up copies of the bill. Earlier, in a brief intervention, the home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, clarified that a terrorist recently arrested in the valley was brought to Delhi for medical treatment and not for negotiations. The discussion will continue.

Iran

Karrubi: Muslims 'Will Expel America' From Region
LD2108123690 Tehran IRNA in English 1047 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 21, IRNA—Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi Tuesday strongly condemned the U.S. military buildup in the Persian Gulf region describing the U.S. "the ring leader of aggression in the world".

Speaking at Majles open session this morning, Karrubi stressed that presence of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region is a threat to all regional states. "Muslim nations in the region must respond to this aggression," he added. He noted that the U.S. has entered the region with the aim to suppress the genuine Islam and enforce its own version of Islam. But, he stressed, "Muslim nations will expel America from Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf with humiliation and America will take its ominous objectives to grave."

Karrubi ruled out U.S. fabrications alleging that its forces have come to the region to confront aggression. Ironically, this same U.S. Administration which claims to be opposing and confronting any sort of aggression in the world, remained silent towards the Zionist aggression on Lebanon and occupation of parts of Iran by Iraq during the imposed war, said the speaker. The U.S. which claims to be respecting the Security Council resolutions, failed to abide by the Security Council resolution in support of the Palestinians and instead encouraged the Zionist regime to perpetuate its crime, he added.

Pointing to Iran's principled stand vis-a-vis Iraqi seizure of Kuwait, he said Iran condemned aggression in all forms even if it was committed against its enemy. This is a principle which takes root from the Islamic teachings, despite the fact that Kuwait assisted Iraq in its war on Iran. "We explicitly announce that the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait is condemned and as a general rule we condemn aggression in all forms," Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi stressed.

Pointing to Iraq's acceptance of the 1975 accord last week, Karrubi said that this move of Iraq was a positive one eliminating the obstacles on the way to a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

Khamene'i Warns of 'Danger' in U.S. Presence
LD2008181390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyn Khamene'i at ceremony for returning POW's at the Khomeyni shrine on 20 August—recorded]

[Excerpts][passage omitted] During the 10 years of your absence, many events have taken place in this country. The Iranian nation passed many great tests with pride. Thank the Lord that the nation passed such tests with honor. The Iranian nation showed that it can resist events and stand up to them. The enemies of Islam tried their best to create rifts in our nation. They could not. They tried very hard to separate the people from Islam, but they could not. [passage omitted]

From the military, political, economic, and cultural stand points, the nation must be strong. You can see the international threats. See what the great powers are thinking. In this region of the Persian Gulf and the Middle East today, international oppression and the United States are planning to expand their power; they are thinking in terms of their expansionist policies. They do not want to end aggression. They themselves are aggressors. They have shown their aggression in many parts of the world. Their presence poses a danger to the Islamic nations. They are not capable of establishing security. Our Muslim nation should be aware. It is the duty of the whole nation, particularly those who worked in dangerous arenas, and sacrificed their time, their youth, their lives and their dear ones like you, the faithful classes, the families of the martyrs, the self-sacrificers, and all those who have invested in the revolution must concentrate their efforts to reconstruct

the country as a powerful one. They should be supportive of the officials. Never have we had such shining characters as today in the government and the presidency. Thank the Lord that today, the head of our executive, our president is one who is loved and respected, and is a shining hope for the imam in all military and political aspects in the country. [passage omitted]

Government Pledges To Observe UN Sanctions

LD2008183690 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, Aug. 20, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran has assured the U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar that it will abide by the Security Council Resolution 661 on economic sanctions against Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

In a letter to Perez de Cuellar, Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati reiterated that "Iran as a member of the United Nations will honor the Security Council Resolution 661 issued within the capacity of the Council stipulated in the U.N. Charter."

The letter was sent in response to a letter cabled by the U.N. secretary general to Iran's Foreign Ministry on August 8.

On August 8, Perez de Cuellar cabled letters to foreign ministers of all U.N. member states, calling on them to report to him their measures to enforce Resolution 661.

The U.N. chief has been instructed to inform the Security Council of what U.N. members have done to enforce Resolution 661 a month after the resolution was passed.

Velayati, Hizballah Official Discuss Gulf, Lebanon

LD2008181590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Mr. Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, the secretary general of the Islamic Revolutionary Movement of the Lebanese Hizballah and his accompanying delegation who are currently visiting Tehran met Mr. Velayati, the foreign minister of our country, this evening.

In that meeting, Mr. Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, while extending his felicitations on the return of the epic-making free men [POW's] to their Islamic homeland, and praising the Muslim people of Iran for their patience and endurance, briefed Mr. Velayati on the latest developments in Lebanon. They discussed the current situation in the Persian Gulf.

Majles Urges Canceling Kuwaiti Minister's Visit

LD2108075390 Tehran IRNA in English 0639 GMT
21 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 21, IRNA—A group of Majles deputies here Tuesday asked Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati to call off the announced visit to Tehran

of his Kuwaiti counterpart. The request was made at the first session of the Majles Tuesday morning after the month-long summer recess.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad is scheduled to visit Tehran.

Papers Lash U.S. for Military Buildup in Gulf

LD2108103190 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT
21 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 21, IRNA—Two morning dailies in their editorials Tuesday lashed out at the U.S. for its huge military build-up in the potentially explosive Persian Gulf region.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' pointed to the Sunday [19 August] announcement by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that it will allow deployment of foreign troops in its territory. The article warned rulers of the region to take a lesson from the fate of Kuwait's al-Sabah family and said, "America is not reliable and is only after its own interests." In safeguarding its interests, the daily noted, the U.S. would not hesitate to turn its back on its former friends and look for new ones, as it did in the case of Kuwait.

Today, the U.S. is abusing naivety of others in this part of the world and is trying to portray itself as a "savior of the region", wrote the article. The U.S. is trying to terrorize all regional states and at the same time create the assumption that it holds the key to all problems, said the paper. But in reality, it added, the U.S. intends to further escalate tension in the region since it knows well that a "lasting crisis" will better guarantee its regional interests.

Meanwhile, the English-language 'TEHRAN TIMES' again condemned Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and added that the solution to this problem does not necessarily lie in the unlawful invasion of the region by the United States.

"By deploying its forces in Saudi Arabia Washington is probably trying to convince its own Western allies that they need to be under an American security umbrella if oil flow is to be guaranteed", said the article. "It may also be trying to make Europe, which is on the way to an overall unity, dependent on the U.S. for energy," it added. This military meddling, the daily noted, also disturbs the world regulations embodied in the United Nations and Security Council. The daily concluded by saying that if the increasing U.S. military build-up in the Persian Gulf region goes unchecked, the crisis will gain even more dangerous dimensions.

Commentary Opposes OPEC Emergency Session

LD2008135990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1117 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] In parallel with the continuing crisis in the Persian Gulf, the price of a variety of crude oils continued to rise during the past week on the world's markets and it reached an average level by the end of the week of over \$26 per barrel. That is the highest price during the past four and a half years.

In the meantime, Saudi Arabia has expressed anxiety about the increased price of oil and threatened that if OPEC members do not hold an emergency session in order to come to an agreement about increasing oil production, it will unilaterally increase its oil production by 2 million barrels a day in order to make up for the shortfall resulting from the oil embargo on Iraq and Kuwait. The adoption of such a stand by Saudi Arabia occurs at a time when the majority of OPEC members are opposed to an increase in OPEC oil production, and especially to any unilateral action by members in the current circumstances, because at the moment, the oil reserves of consuming countries are at a very high level and the world is not faced with a real oil shortage.

Of course, since the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, the oil embargo on the two countries, and the dispatch of extensive U.S. forces to Saudi Arabia, the price of oil has increased by some 33 percent. However, this increase is more a result of market reaction to developments in the Persian Gulf region rather than of a fall in the supply of oil. The countries of the Persian Gulf region possess about 60 percent of proven oil reserves and about a third of the world's crude oil supply, and developments in this region naturally have an undeniable effect on international markets.

In a general assessment of the current state of the oil market, it can be said that in view of the very high level of strategic oil reserves in industrial countries, which is currently estimated at 1 billion barrels, and in view of the great sensitivity of the oil market to developments in the Persian Gulf region in the current circumstances the price of oil is determined not by supply and demand, but by political and military developments in the region.

In such circumstances, the majority of OPEC members believe that it is fundamentally not in the interests of OPEC to hold a session, as OPEC is faced with the great danger that it will become subject to political tensions. The insistence of some OPEC members, such as Saudi Arabia, on holding an emergency session following the U.S. request for an increase in oil production, would mean that the positions of OPEC member countries with respect to the Persian Gulf crisis would be dragged into the organization, and that it would be confronted with the danger of division and disintegration. This is especially so since the main aim of the agreement reached at the 87th OPEC session on 27 January was the reduction of the large oil reserves which have always been used to the detriment of the oil market. And in view of the level of those reserves, increasing oil production quotas cannot be justified.

On the whole, in the current circumstances, first, a change in OPEC's long-term policies will undoubtedly not benefit any of the organization's members, and second, any violation of the OPEC agreement would make the reestablishment of unity in the organization difficult.

Nationals Continue To Return From Kuwait

Note 'Abnormal' Situation

LD2008141390 Tehran IRNA in English 1242 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 20, IRNA—Iranians arriving here from Kuwait say foodstuffs are rare, the city bazaar is closed and the general situation in Kuwait is abnormal. They say Iraqi soldiers are taking position here and there throughout Kuwait and especially in al-Ahmadi port with tanks and armoured vehicles roaming in the city streets amid sporadic overnight shooting.

The arriving Iranians have crossed a border checkpoint at Shalamchah on their way to Iran from Basrah of Iraq.

According to some people Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait have a "respectful behavior with Iranians, some even obviously delighted at meeting them."

Since the Iraqi seizure of Kuwait on August 2 about 10,000 Iranians residing in Kuwait have so far returned to Iran. The first group which numbered 5,000 arrived here Sunday afternoon [19 August] and the second group Monday morning.

The arriving Iranians say the Kuwaitis are unwilling to cooperate with the Iraqi forces in their own land. Local newspapers have ceased to publish since August 2 and the Kuwaiti television and radio stations simply relay Iraq's T.V. Channel One and Two and Radio Baghdad.

Meanwhile one Iranian on his way home was reportedly injured as he accidentally stepped on a mine in Shalamchah and another killed as his car overturned midway between Khorramshahr-Ahvaz road Sunday afternoon. The border road Shalamchah is off Iran-Iraq border and was the scene of fierce battles during the 1980-88 war.

Iraq has started pulling out troops from the area. Evacuated territories will then have to be swept of neglected mines.

'7,000 More' Return

LD2008172490 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), Aug. 20, IRNA—Some 7,000 more Iranians residing in Kuwait, entered Iran via the southern Shalamchah road today after crossing through Iraqi territory. The fresh arrival, making up a train of 1,000 private cars and buses stacked with their belongings, brings to 17,000 the number of Kuwait-based Iranians to return home over the past two days. Earlier on Sunday [19 August] and also today morning, convoys of 5,000 each entered Iran via the same border point

after driving from Kuwait City through Iraqi soil. The exodus is the result of the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq and displaces between 60,000 to 70,000 Iranians based in that oil-rich sheikhdom.

Units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) under the Karbala Command Headquarters have been ordered to provide all facilities to the displaced Iranians.

A southern field commander told IRNA that fuel, water, food and lodgings and other amenities have been readied for the homecoming Iranians, and that IRGC mechanic teams have been stationed on the route to repair their cars or buses.

He said some of the new arrivals from Kuwait who suffered exhaustion due to the long trek over the Iraqi desert were treated at IRGC hospitals.

Reportage on ECO Foreign Ministers' Meetings

Turkey's Bozer Arrives

LD1808153990 Tehran IRNA in English 1221 GMT
18 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Bozer arrived here this afternoon at the head of a ranking delegation and was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati. The two-day visit is part of political counselling between the two states concerning bilateral ties and important regional developments.

Earlier at Ankara Airport before his departure for Tehran, the Turkish foreign minister told reporters that he was not carrying any special message for the Iranian officials.

"We will study views of different world countries concerning the Persian Gulf events with Iranian officials," he added.

Referring to the friendly relations between the two neighbouring Muslim countries, Bozer said Ankara wants tranquillity in the Middle East "through peaceful and constructive negotiations."

Sees 'Constructive Role'

TA1808150890 Ankara ANATOLIA in English
1452 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran (A.A)—Foreign Minister Ali Bozer said today that, being the two significant states in the region, Iran and Turkey might play a constructive role in establishing peace in the region.

Foreign Minister Bozer arrived here for a two-day official visit at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati, to discuss the recent developments. In a statement at the Mehrabad Airport after being welcomed by Velayati, Bozer said: "I can say that this constructive role will become more effective."

Stressing that the events in the Gulf were developing in a very fast manner and reached critical dimensions, Bozer said, "we shall evaluate the most recent events with Mr. Velayati."

"In addition" he said, "I will give Mr. Velayati information about Turkey's stand and will receive information from him about the stand of Iran" he said.

"We wish the relations between the two countries to improve" he added.

Bozer, who will meet with Velayati later today, is expected to be received by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Pakistan's Yaqub Khan Arrives

LD1908104390 Tehran IRNA in English 1016 GMT
19 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19, IRNA—Foreign Minister of Pakistan Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived here Sunday [words indistinct] discuss the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region and Tehran-Islamabad relations with the Iranian officials.

Yaqub Khan who was greeted at Tehran Mehrabad international airport by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati, is to take part in a tripartite meeting with the foreign ministers of Iran and the visiting Turkish foreign minister during his stay in Tehran.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Bozer arrived here Saturday afternoon [18 August] on a two-day visit to exchange views with the Iranian officials on the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region.

Bozer Meets President

LD1908112390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of our country, received Mr. Ali Bozer, foreign minister of Turkey, this morning.

In the course of the meeting, while conveying the greetings of the president of Turkey, the foreign minister of Turkey stated the viewpoints of his country's government with regard to regional issues. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey, as two neighbor countries, must maintain good and close relations with each other. He added: In the wake of the Iraqi onslaught against Kuwait and the declaration of the UN agreement, Turkey has severed all commercial, oil, and economic ties with Iraq. While expressing concern at the future of the Persian Gulf region and remarking on the losses incurred by his country from recent events, he expressed hope that regional problems will be resolved rapidly and in a peaceful manner.

For his part, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran has adopted the clearest stance toward the Iraqi onslaught against Kuwait. He

remarked: In the course of the past 10 years, the Islamic Republic has sustained the greatest loss in the face of Iraqi attacks, while many countries benefitted therefrom. Therefore, Iran, more than any other country, is eager to extinguish the flames of this situation.

The president of our country remarked: The countries of the region should act in a way to preclude the military presence of the major powers in the Persian Gulf; any country acting in any other way will have to answer to its nation in the future.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted the good relations between the two countries, and expressed hope that the developing trend of relations between Iran and Turkey will expand even further.

Velayati, Bozer View Recent Events

*LD1908112890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Aug 90*

[Text] The latest developments in and issues related to the Persian Gulf were discussed last night in the first round of talks between Mr. Ali Bozer, the Turkish foreign minister, and Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister. During this round of talks, the Turkish foreign minister expressed anxiety about recent events and expressed the hope that Iran and Turkey, as two important countries in the Persian Gulf region and the Middle East, will play their role in establishing peace and stability in the region.

For his part, our country's foreign minister, spoke of the difficulties imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 10 years, especially during the eight years of imposed war. Stressing the need for finding a regional solution to recent developments, he explained the Islamic Republic of Iran's decisive and principled stance condemning aggression and defending the just rights of Muslims.

In the second round of talks between the foreign ministers of Iran and Turkey, which were today at the Foreign Ministry, the two sides stressed the importance of continued regular exchanges of view between the two countries in the light of the recent developments in the region.

Velayati: ECO 'Strong Framework'

*LD1908183890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 19 Aug 90*

[Text] The foreign ministers of Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey discussed in a meeting this afternoon issues of interest to the three countries. At this meeting, Mr. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Pakistan's foreign minister, while thanking the Islamic Republic of Iran's initiative for organizing such an important meeting, said: The ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] is an appropriate and strong framework for cooperation between the three countries.

The foreign minister of Pakistan, continuing, said: The independence and territorial integrity of countries

should be respected, and without condemning these aggressions, stability, tranquility, and security in the region cannot be assured.

Mr. Ali Bozer, Turkey's foreign minister, said at this trilateral meeting: It is fortunate that this important meeting has been convened under these precarious circumstances and that all three countries are exchanging their views. He added: We hope the motions adopted by the United Nations succeed in resolving the problems of the region.

At the end of this meeting, Mr. Velayati, foreign minister of our country, in connection with this trilateral meeting and its outcome, said to our reporter:

[Begin Velayati recording] In the talks we have had concerning bilateral issues and trilateral cooperation between the three countries, bearing in mind the sensitive juncture in which we find ourselves and the existing crisis currently prevailing in our region, the three countries decided that under these crisis-charged and very precarious circumstances, to consult with each other. This is why this meeting was organized. At this meeting, the points discussed were chiefly about the events following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. We all agreed on this, that the occupation of the territory of a country by another country cannot in any way be justified and is not in the interest of the security of the region. All three countries, at various points in time, have expressed their stances condemning the invasion. Today they reiterate this once again.

All three countries believe regional cooperation can prevent the presence of foreigners in our region. Of course, in the past, such a thing did not exist. Perhaps these consultations conducted during the past weeks with regional countries, member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Syria, as well as Turkey and Pakistan recently, will prepare the preliminaries for a regional cooperation, which will certainly contribute to the peace and security of this very sensitive region in the future and prevent a repeat of such distressing and very dangerous events. We discussed the search for ways of confronting the extension of such a climate of tension in the region. Ways of ending, correctly and justly, the very disturbing situation were discussed.

Bearing in mind that recently Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan had a very successful meeting within the framework of the ECO, today's gathering can be considered complimentary to the recent meetings, especially if we take note of the special circumstances prevailing in the region. All three foreign ministers decided to continue their consultations regularly and more frequently, especially under circumstances of confronting a crisis. We shared the same viewpoints regarding the preservation of security in the region and we hope in the future we will be able to expand and strengthen the basis of this cooperation. [end recording]

Ministers Demand Iraqi Withdrawal

BK2008013290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0100 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Pakistan, Iran and Turkey have emphasized immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity. This was expressed during a meeting between the foreign ministers of three countries. The foreign ministers affirmed their countries' pledge to implement the UN Security Council's resolution on imposing sanctions against Iraq.

Yaqub Khan Meets Velayati

NC2008070090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan met with Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati yesterday afternoon and discussed recent developments and the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

During this meeting, the Pakistani foreign minister described Iraq's acceptance of the 1975 [Algiers] pact as a great success for the Islamic Republic of Iran and pointed out that the steadfastness of the Islamic Republic of Iran throughout the war and during the talks paved the way for this great success of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Today God's wish is for the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was once the subject of aggression, to succeed, and an extremely good opportunity has risen for the Islamic Republic of Iran in the world.

During this meeting our Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati described the stands of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the recent developments in the region and the noteworthy progress achieved in the implementation of Resolution 598. In relation to Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, he said: Regional problems should be solved by the regional countries. Foreign powers, which played a major role in arming Iraq with destructive weapons and helped it in its aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, cannot speak about the region's security and stability today. Definitely the presence of Western forces will add to the existing tension.

During the meeting, the foreign ministers of Iran and Pakistan condemned Iraq's aggression against Kuwait and described the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq as an illegal and unacceptable act. They also emphasized the independence and territorial integrity of Kuwait.

The two sides also pointed to the need to expand relations between Iran and Pakistan and stated the two countries' readiness to work toward this end.

Discusses Gulf, Regional Issues

NC2008071590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Pakistan's Foreign Minister Mr. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan met with First Vice President Mr. Habibi last night and discussed the Persian Gulf crisis and other regional problems.

During this meeting, the Pakistani foreign minister extended the congratulations of the Pakistani Government and nation on the victorious return of the free men [prisoners of war] to the Islamic Republic of Iran and on Iraq's acceptance of the 1975 [Algiers] pact and said: Now that the war between Iran and Iraq has ended, we hope for a peace which takes into account the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Pakistani foreign minister thanked the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its stands on Kashmir and Afghanistan and added: The views of Iran and Pakistan on these and especially on regional problems are identical.

He also described the session of the three countries of Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan as useful, and called for more exchanges of views among them.

Then First Vice President Mr. Habibi referred to the Kashmir problem and said: Apart from our sentimental relations with Kashmir, we also have ideological relations, and we always want calm in this region. Pointing to the fact that the unstable situation in Afghanistan is a threat to world peace and the fact that we cannot tolerate this unrest along our borders, he added: We hope that the Afghanistan problem will be solved in the best way possible.

The first vice president also referred to the recent problems in the Persian Gulf. Pointing to the sensitivity of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the name of the Persian Gulf and on the problems related to it, he said: We always insist that calm be established in the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and the Indian Ocean. Throughout the imposed war we believed and still continue to believe that the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf is a threat to peace. We believe that the security of this region should be assigned to the regional countries.

In conclusion, Mr. Habibi referred to the talks among the three foreign ministers of Turkey, Pakistan, and Iran and emphasized the need for more cooperation among them.

Meets With President

LD2008121190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Mr. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the foreign minister of Pakistan, who is currently visiting Tehran at the head of a delegation was received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning.

In the meeting, at which Foreign Minister Velayati was also present, Mr. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan conveyed

warm and fraternal greetings from President Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan and also from the prime minister of Pakistan, and congratulated the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] for its remarkable achievements. He said: I am extremely happy to be extending my sincere felicitations on the realization of the just stands adopted by the IRI for which you have displayed earnest endeavours throughout the past years. He then praised the decisiveness and courage of Iranian officials and the people in the face of the obstacles ensuing from the heartrending earthquake, and said: The Iranian nation, with its decisive morals which constitute one of the spiritual characteristics of this great nation, has gained worldwide admiration.

Continuing his remarks, the foreign minister of Pakistan submitted a report to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the latest developments inside Pakistan and in the region, as well as on the Afghan and Kashmir issues, and the Iraqi onslaught against Kuwait. He praised the principled stands adopted by the IRI with regard to the Afghan and Kashmir issues.

Reiterating the need for maintaining extensive and joint cooperation between Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey to establish stability and security in the region, Mr. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan added: We hope that the three countries of Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey and the regional states will cooperate and employ diplomacy and coordination to establish stability in this sensitive region and so that the region will not be dependent on any foreign power and its fate be left in the hands of the governments and nations of the region.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in his turn, having expressed his gratitude for the warm greetings of the president and the prime minister of Pakistan, stressed the necessity of expanding and deepening relations between the two Islamic and neighbor countries of Iran and Pakistan. He remarked: We are grateful to the Government and the nation of Pakistan for the assistance they rendered during the earthquake.

Expressing his concern at the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The existing conditions in the region cause concern and no precise predictions can be made in that connection.

Reiterating the need for the regional states to safeguard the security and stability of the region, our country's president stressed the necessity of maintaining cooperation between the countries of Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, and the regional states.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that the brother country of Pakistan would be able to stride toward its development with greater unity and cohesion.

Islamabad Reports Meeting

*BK2108042190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 21 Aug 90*

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has called on the Iranian President 'Ali 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and apprised him of the latest situation in South Asia as well as the Kashmir and Afghanistan issues. He lauded Iran for its stand on the Kashmir and Afghanistan issues. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan stressed the need for increasing cooperation between Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey to realize the region's security and stability. He expressed hope that the region's countries will devise a solid policy to realize this objective and will make the region safe from the influence of all foreign forces.

Stressing the need for strengthening the region's stability and security, the Iranian president said Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, and other countries of the area should cooperate on this matter.

Meets Afghan Unity Officials

*LD2008190190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 20 Aug 90*

[Text] The spokesman and a few members of the representative council of the Afghan Islamic Unity Party [AIUP], held a meeting in Tehran, with Mr. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the Pakistani foreign minister, this evening.

The AIUP spokesman said in that meeting: We are grateful to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Government of Pakistan for having endured the problems entailed in hosting the mujahidin and the emigres, and request them to increase their cooperation toward the establishment of greater coordination between the AIUP and the Peshawar-based mujahidin.

On the AIUP's visit to Pakistan, he said: We submitted a set of clear-cut proposals to our Peshawar-based brothers, which unfortunately produced no results due to the numerous problems which they have been encountering.

The Pakistani foreign minister, for his turn, expressed his joy at the concentration of the Iran-based mujahidin within a united party called the Islamic Unity Party, and said: The AIUP plays a significant and constructive role with respect to the Afghan issue. We have constantly reminded the Peshawar-based mujahidin of this fact. We will convey your message to the Government of Pakistan and the Peshawar-based mujahidin, and hope that in view of the critical situation in the world and the region, you will reach a decision as soon as possible.

Velayati Welcomes Iraqi Border Accord

*LD2008153990 Tehran IRNA in English 1458 GMT
20 Aug 90*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati today described Iraq's acceptance of the border accord it signed with Iran in 1975 as a "positive step towards peace and stability in the region."

Velayati made the remark in the second round of talks with his Pakistani counterpart Sahabzada Yaqub Khan who is here for the foreign ministerial session of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) which groups the Islamic Republic with Pakistan and Turkey.

Yaqub Khan briefed Velayati on the latest developments in Pakistan following the dismissal of Premier Benazir Bhutto and dissolution of parliament by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. He said general elections would be held in Pakistan as scheduled.

The two also discussed mutual ties and the latest developments in Afghanistan.

Reportage on Ongoing Iraqi Withdrawal From Iran

Iraqi Forces Leave Musian

*LD2008134590 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT
20 Aug 90*

[Text] Ilam, Aug. 20, IRNA—Iraqi forces completely pulled out of Musian and its 21 villages, 300kms. south-east of the provincial capital, Monday morning and returned to the internationally-recognized borders.

Iraq started transferring its equipments and personnel stationed in the region since Friday [17 August], said the Dehloran governor to IRNA Monday. Last Wednesday [15 August] Iraq announced that it has accepted Iran's terms for peace including withdrawal from the occupied territories, release of the POWs and acceptance of the 1975 accord.

Musian is located eight kms. from the border strip and has been under Iraqi occupation since the very beginning of the war. It was liberated by Muslim combatants during Muharram operations in November 1982 and was again captured by the Iraqi forces in 1983.

Continue Evacuation

*LD2008150590 Tehran IRNA in English 1437 GMT
20 Aug 90*

[Text] Qasr-e Shirin (Bakhtaran), Aug. 20, IRNA—Some 2,000 of the homecoming POW's will be provided air service to their hometowns daily. An informed source at the Western Border Headquarters said today that a total of 40 Air Force planes have been kept ready for this purpose. He also said that camps have been set in Islamabad-e Gharb and Bakhtaran to provide temporary lodging and medical quarantine for 5,000 to 8,000 returning POW's.

"Iraqi pull out from the border areas still continues, and so far 95 percent of Iranian soil in Dehloran, Meymak, Salehabad, Gilan-e Gharb, Sar-e pol-e Zahab, Javanrud and Paveh regions has been evacuated," he added.

The source also disclosed that Iraqi commanders have accepted Iran's request for maps of the mined border regions, and "border regions will be demined as soon as the maps are received."

Withdraw Past Border Near Mehran

*LD2008185690 Tehran IRNA in English 1708 GMT
20 Aug 90*

[Text] Ilam, Aug. 20, IRNA—Iraqi troops around the town of Mehran, western Iran pulled back behind internationally recognized-borders Monday, supervised by the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG). The Iraqi troop withdrawal started Friday [17 August] follows Baghdad's re-acceptance of the 1975 border accord last week, which also set in motion the prisoner swap.

Despite Iran's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598 on July 18, 1988, Iraqi troops took up new positions inside Iranian soil, cutting off the Mehran-Ilam road and forcing Iranian forces to skirt around through a side track. However, the Iraqi withdrawal from occupied areas has restored traffic on the main road.

A field commander told IRNA that before leaving the Iraqis handed maps of minefields they had sown in the region to UNIIMOG personnel to enable the mopping up operations. He said the number of Iraqi troops along the 425 km border strip in Ilam has sharply dropped over Sunday and Monday with only small pockets still remaining in their position.

Evacuate Mehran Heights Positions

*LD2108093390 Tehran IRNA in English 0758 GMT
21 Aug 90*

[Text] Ilam, Aug. 21, IRNA—Iraqi troops evacuated their positions in several strategic heights overlooking city of Mehran in this western province and returned to the internationally-recognized borders Monday [20 August], the office of Mehran governor announced Tuesday. The Iraqi forces pulled out from Shur Shirin and Kani Shaykh range of heights, Shahid Gholami Hill, Khosrowabad range of heights and Kanjan Cham Dam in the vicinity of Mehran city, the office added. Meanwhile the Iraqi forces stationed in the southern axes of Mehran and in surrounding areas of Islamiyah township also started pulling out on Monday. Right after evacuation of the heights overlooking Kanjan Cham Dam the Iranian forces started clearing up the evacuated areas.

Withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from the occupied Iranian territories came after Iraq accepted Iran's terms for peace last week which also included release of the Iranian prisoners of war.

Reportage on Exchange of Iranian, Iraqi POW's**Iraqi Release of Iranians Continues**

LD2008102790 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Qasr-e Shirin, Bakhtaran Prov., Aug. 20, IRNA—The fourth batch of the released Iranian POWs were handed over by the Iraqi authorities to the officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at Khosravi border point in the Western Iran Monday morning.

Meanwhile, the third batch of the Iraqi POWs numbering 1,000 set off for Khosravi region Monday morning to be handed over to the ICRC officials.

The incoming POWs arrived in Manzariyeh township of Iraq on the Iran-Iraq border minutes before 9:00 hours local time (5:30 GMT) who were then transferred to the Red Cross camps set up for this purpose.

An IRNA dispatch from the area said Iraqi buses continue to bring the Iranian POWs to the Manzariyeh township and it is not yet known how many of them will be handed over to the Iranians on Monday. Both Iran and Iraq have announced their readiness to release more POWs each day and the ICRC has promised to cooperate. More buses were sent to Khosravi border on Monday to facilitate transfer of greater numbers of POWs.

In the provincial capital of Bakhtaran, the residents stayed up late last night celebrating the return of the Iranian POWs. They are anxiously awaiting new arrivals. In Islamabad-e Charb and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, in this western province, musical bands are playing traditional Kurdish music for the incoming POWs. The freed POWs are given an official welcome in Qasr-e Shirin where their fellow combatants present them bunches of flowers. The freed POWs after remaining in quarantine for 40 hours are taken to the provincial capital to be flown to Tehran.

President Welcomes POW's Home

NC2008104190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] A group of free men who have returned to the Islamic homeland arrived in Tehran yesterday afternoon and were officially welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by President Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani; Mr. Mohammadi-Golpayegani, the esteemed leadership's representative; a number of ministers; the chief of the general staff; a number of military commanders; the Tehran mayor, and Tehran residents.

After their arrival in Tehran, the free men were showered with flowers by the children of martyrs. During this ceremony, after the national anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran and an anthem performed by the free men, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke to them and said: Meeting with you is a very sweet and spectacular event. For years we and the steadfast Iranian nation had been

counting the minutes until this day. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We thank God that this moment coincided with our victory, with the enemy's surrender, and with the acceptance of the desires for which you fought, were taken captive, and suffered. When you were released, the entire Iranian nation was overjoyed. When you were in the Iraqi prisons, you did not know how the heart of the nation beat for you because the greatest problem that tormented the heart of the Iranian nation was that the dear ones were in captivity.

The president added: There were sometimes those who thought that concessions should be made for your salvation and for a possible acceleration of the freedom of you, the dear ones. But those who were acquainted with the principles of the revolution and with the imam's path, and especially you yourselves and your esteemed families, did not accept this and stated that we will wait and will not give any concessions to Iraq. And God rewarded this patience and satisfied the hearts of the people.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then emphasized that the world today has realized and the enemy has accepted that we are right. He then referred to the demise of his eminence the imam and told the sad free men: You are returning at a time when our dear and great imam is not among us. But our and your hearts are a proof of the imam's affection toward you, and the great spirit of our deceased imam is present here and witnessing your victorious return.

The president pointed out that the imam's impact and thoughts rule Islamic Iran and that his presence is felt everywhere. Today, fortunately, the best and most worthy person for whom the imam himself had affection—that is, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i—has succeeded him and is continuing on his path.

Referring to the efforts by the cabinet and by other institutions and organizations and to the Majles decision on solving the free men's problems, the president said: We have counted on your personalities in our calculations today, and we think that tens of thousands of free human beings who hardened into steel during their captivity in prison will be at the service of the revolution and the country. The president added: We do not regard you, the dear ones, as released prisoners of war. We regard you as a reserve of the revolution and a backbone which will be effective in reconstructing Islamic Iran.

In conclusion, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: The enemy has stopped pointing his gun at us today, and society is in the process of reconstruction. We hope that we can construct this country in a way which will satisfy the imam of the ages, may God accelerate his advent. You should know that, thank God, unity and solidarity rule your Islamic country today. We hope to be able, under the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i, to carry out our duties.

A statement issued by the headquarters in charge of the affairs of the free men said a group of the dear free men will go to the tomb of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni,

may God bless his soul, and pledge allegiance to the ideals of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Also, according to the posted program, a number of free men are to return to the Islamic homeland today.

MIA Paramilitary Among Returnees

*LD2008135790 Tehran IRNA in English 1306 GMT
20 Aug 90*

[Text] Kerman, Aug. 20, IRNA—Seyed-Hossein Mirhoseini, an Iranian paramilitary long since listed missing in action has returned home along with other war prisoners.

The young paramilitary who was member of the Basij [mobilized] force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in Sirjan was sent to the battlefronts on March 28, 1982 and was listed missing and unheard of on April 28 of the same year and remained in the same classification until his surprise return home Sunday.

The homecoming POW is now 29. He was born in Abar-Koub and grew up in Kerman.

For yet undisclosed reasons the Iraqi government has not listed the entirety of Iranian prisoners, which means many more of those combatants listed "missing in action" may hopefully return home in the coming days.

2,000 Iraqis for 3,000 Iranians Daily

*LD2008143690 Tehran IRNA in English 1226 GMT
20 Aug 90*

[Text] Qasr-e Shirin (Bakhtaran), Aug. 20, IRNA—With the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the occupied Khosravi border town, prisoners of war were swapped at international borders for the first time on Monday.

A commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said that according to the agreement reached with Iraq, for every 2,000 Iraqi POWs, 3,000 Iranians will be exchanged daily.

The report indicates that photographers and film-makers of both the countries are making films and preparing reports on the daily POW swap.

Red Cross Sets Conditions for Exchange

*LD2008150790 Tehran IRNA in English 1326 GMT
20 Aug 90*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA—The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Monday announced its conditioned readiness to handle the daily exchange of 8,000 POWs from both Iran and Iraq.

Head of the ICRC delegation to Iran de Finner told IRNA that if ICRC rules and its technical requests were met, the number of POWs to be freed by the two sides would reach the required amount. He reiterated that each POW should freely make a decision about his willingness to return to his country or stay behind, adding that this would be ascertained in an unwitnessed interview between the ICRC representative and the POW.

De Finner said ICRC representatives in Iran have been increased from two to 30 over the past few days, 15 of whom were presently supervising the POW swap in the border city of Qasr-e Shirin. He said that a number of POWs were disabled and therefore should be provided facilities for air travel. De Finner appreciated the cooperation of the Iranian Foreign Ministry with the ICRC representatives in Iran.

***RESALAT Report on 27 Jun Majles Session**

*90AS0242A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
28 Jun 90 pp 3, 4*

[Text]

Jadari, Dasht-e Azadegan deputy: It is necessary to take maximum advantage of this active participation and caring mobilization

The first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Qasem Jadari, the representative of the people of Dasht-e Azadegan. At the outset of his speech, he offered his condolences to the survivors of the recent earthquake in Zanzan and Gilan provinces. He then referred to the recent visit of the parliamentary delegation of the Islamic Consultative Majles from the stricken areas and said: In a visit to the region, in the company of several dear colleagues, the gravity of the disaster was beyond our imagination and the inflicted suffering reminded us of the first days of the war. On the one hand, the gravity of the disaster and the widespread anguish and, on the other hand, the heroic determination of the devout nation which waged war on nature and its destructive forces were lessons [for all of us].

The mobilization of facilities and forces and gaining control of the situation in a very short time has amazed and astonished the foreign rescue workers. The flood of aid material from all across this land is the cause of pride. May God's salutations be upon this nation! God's salutations upon this Leader, this school and on this government for selflessly offering all that was available. It is necessary to take maximum advantage of this active participation and caring mobilization. Organization, division of tasks and determination of responsibilities will ensure greater and better service and prevent repetitions and miscoordination. We must value the devotion of this nation because it has proven that it is dedicated to its human and Islamic principles and is the best friend of the government and officials in hardship and at the time of need.

Our afflicted and mourning people in Gilan and Zanzan [provinces] must know that the esteemed government and noble people of Iran share their grief and they will surely [help] to build their destroyed homes. Of course, this is the minimum that can be done in order to lessen the tormenting pains of these loved ones.

He also added: These dear afflicted ones know well that we have over one million refugees who lost their homes

over ten years ago. People who have been living with minimum living facilities in the hot and dry deserts in Khuzestan, have endured all kinds of hardship and difficulty and now are awaiting to return and rebuild their homes. In this connection, this humble [servant] has requested an audience with the exalted leader from this office of his holiness. However, despite repeated contacts and having even sought the assistance of His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Muslimin Karrubi, I have not succeeded in having the honor of his audience.

There have been two years since the passing of the resolution [598]. Our deprived and war-stricken people anxiously await their return to and activation of reconstruction efforts. They are growing restless living in hot and burning desert [camps] and without adequate facilities. Reconstruction of the housing requested by these refugees will be 15 km from the border and no military forces have been stationed in these areas.

The reason for the region not being liberated [from Iraqi occupation], for the lack of preparation for the return of these dear [refugees], and the reason for the lack of reconstruction activities in this region are not clear to us. I do not understand. What logic and what mind can accept this? Why aren't these people allowed to return considering they are anxiously prepared to return and ready to launch on the reconstruction of the region and their destroyed homes? Of course, such decisions will not result in the faltering of the strong belief of our people to Islam and the Revolution, and our people, as always, will remain good frontier guards in the defense of their Islamic land.

Nowruzi, Damavand and Firouzkuh deputy: Today we are witnessing the admirable mobilization of those who continue on the path of the imam in assisting the earthquake victims.

Mr. Asghar Nowruzi, the representative of the people of Damavand and Firouzkuh [the second speaker] in yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. In his speech, on the occasion of the recent tragic earthquake in Gilan and Zanjan provinces, he offered his condolences to the absent imam (AJ), the exalted leadership, and to the survivors of the [dead] victims. He then stated: A heart filled with love of God and connected with the never-ending divine fountain of existence will never cease beating. This was the reason why our late imam, after setting in the earthly world, shined once again through clean hearts of millions of chaste people and answered the heartfelt and loving call of the martyr-nurturing nation, [they] anxiously and eagerly have shown their miraculous presence in all of the Revolution's fronts of struggle, small and large, and [thus] astounded the East and West.

Today we are witnessing the admirable mobilization of those who continue on the path of the departed beloved one. Those who in ever-increasing tears and sadness rushed to the aid of the quake victims—as in the days of the Holy Defense—to offer their assistance and the flood of their aid was such that astounded the world over.

While expressing his thanks and appreciation from the pious and devout people on the occasion of the passing on of our late imam, [he] emphasized the [continued] aid to the victims of the recent quake [and said:] I declare to the officials and all those involved that they have done right by the dear nation. I also add that the God-seeking and honorable people of Damavand and Firouzkuh region—as they demonstrated by their participation in ceremonies marking the anniversary of the passing on of the great leader of the Revolution by holding mourning ceremonies day and night as in the mourning for Imam Hoseyn (Peace Be Upon Him) [PBUH] and feeding the needy—have also dispatched masses of aid to the quake-stricken regions. May God's peace and blessing be upon this worthy and valuable people.

In another part of his speech, Mr Nowruzi thanked the government of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani for offering all its facilities to save the lives of victims and help the wounded survivors. He also thanked the compassionate people from all over the globe who rose to sympathize with this afflicted nation. He then said: The brave nation and the revolutionary Majles, a memento of the imam, never see themselves in need of the assistance of those whose hand is unsuccessfully smeared in the blood of the oppressed people and, especially, this revolutionary nation. The world-monger America who, in order to achieve its illegitimate interests, has set the world afire, ruthlessly chokes the deprived and the oppressed, and subjects an innocent nation like Iran—only for demanding its rights—to all kinds of aggressions, murders, plundering and conspiracies.

Now, in order to once again mislead nations, it sends signals of compassion and friendship and claims that it has come to the aid of the very same people that, if it could, would kill. Also, following their master [America], lackeys such as Saddam, Shah Fahd and their accomplices have started talking about compassion so that, perhaps, they can lessen their shame [before the world.]

How mistaken they are. While our assets are still blocked in American banks and our stolen planes are still being held by Saddam, how can their promises of giving aid to innocent people be trusted? In their own way, they have spread another trap but the Islamic Republic will not fall prey. [This nation] will once again reveal the treachery of these insidious and fox-natured types and will drag their faces into the dirt. If they are truthful, they should endeavor to fully implement [UN] Resolution 598 which has been passed for over 20 months. And, refrain from their continuous obstructions to its implementation, which is well known to all, so that peace, tranquillity and compassion can truly prevail in the world.

The speaker then declared his hatred of the murderer America and the regime of the family of Saud, lackeys and usurpers of the two sacred shrines, for the massacre of the pilgrims to the sacred House of God and emphasized: I state unequivocally that, these criminals can never be compassionate and their claims are false and are nothing more than deceptions.

He then referred to the precise implementation of the 5-Year Plan and stated: I expect from the great government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to exert special efforts in order to establish social justice and create more laws within the Islamic system. Also, diligent efforts must be made to execute and implement the Five-Year Plan which is the result of 10 years of efforts by all those involved, the dedicated [former] government of the dear brother His Excellency Engineer Musavi and a valuable achievement of the Islamic Consultative Majles. By executing the principle of supervision and evaluation—which is an important management principle—do not allow any deviation from the framework of the plan, as stated by the exalted leadership. In case of facing any obstacle, the legal approach must be adopted and the matter should be corrected or solved through the Majles.

The representative of the people of Firouzkuh and Damavand referred then to the Justice Week and said: During the week commemorating the martyrs of 28 June—the innocent martyr Ayatollah Beheshti and his 72 comrades—which was named the Justice Week by the esteemed chief of the judicial branch, it is expected that [to achieve] greater social justice and security—in various dimensions and in accordance with the Constitution and sanctioned laws—serious efforts be made to thwart the actions of economic terrorists. Let this be a gift to all martyrs, especially the 28 June martyrs led by the master of martyrs the innocent Ayatollah Beheshti.

He concluded by saying: I request from the respected speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles, His Excellency Hojjat ol-Islam val-Muslimin Hajji Karrubi and the esteemed leadership of the Majles, that—in order to help realize the duties of deputy and those of the Majles in accordance with the Constitution, in various dimensions and (especially in regard to supervision, investigation and research), maintaining the respect of the esteemed deputies and the Islamic Consultative Majles, as was stated by the chiefs of the three branches, that within the system, Majles is next in line after the exalted leadership, and is the essence of the cries of “God is great” and the blood of martyrs—to take firm steps and do not allow the Voice and Vision and other organizations to fail in their duty toward the rights of the Majles. For example, why were yesterday’s remarks by the deputy speaker of the Majles not broadcast by the Voice and Vision?!

Montakhabnia, Shiraz deputy: Our political and international affairs will not be a function of emotions and sentiments.

The third pre-agenda speaker during yesterday’s open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Rasul Montakhabnia, the representative of the people of Shiraz. In connection with the recent earthquake disaster in the Provinces of Zanjan and Gilan, he stated: On the occasion of the anniversary of the death of the great leader of the Islamic Revolution (may heaven be his place) tears in the eyes of our truth-seeing Islamic nation

had not dried before the all-knowing God had decided on another great test to our resistant, steadfast, and afflicted people of Iran.

The harrowing and sad event which took thousands of our loved ones as sacrifices and caused tens of thousands to be wounded and disabled, left a large part of our Islamic land in ruins, and at the same time brought the Islamic and nationalist sentiments of our loyal people to its highest point, which, combined with their sympathy and active participation in the rescuing of our quake victims, aiding the wounded and disabled, and sending cash and material aid, they created another epic in the golden history of the revolution and focused the eyes of the world on themselves.

On the occasion of this massive catastrophe and great tragedy, I offer my condolences to his lordship, may our spirits sacrifice for him, and the exalted leader of the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic nation of Iran, especially the survivors of the calamity. I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to all the brothers and sisters who rushed to the aid of those dear ones from all across the country. Rescue groups, revolutionary organizations and all others and the serving government that, toward this path, mobilized all its facilities. I also thank all the nations of the world, Muslim and non-Muslim, who, in this calamity, sympathized with our nation; also, international societies and governments that, without any expectation, acted in accordance with their human responsibilities. I especially thank and appreciate the efforts of the noble and devout people of Fars who fulfilled their responsibilities in this humane affair in the best possible way.

He continued by saying: Although the Islamic Republic has accepted the gifts offered by governments and nations and, except in very rare occasions, will not refuse them, the contemporary world knows well that the domestic and foreign policy of the Islamic Republic are functions of specific principles and are based on pillars and values which are deeply rooted in the belief and faith of the officials and our nation. The great leader of the Revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic (God’s Peace Upon Him) declared these to be firm and unbending principles.

Our slogan of “No East-No West” is a fundamental slogan of the Islamic Revolution in the world of the hungry and dispossessed. It depicts the true policy of non-alignment of Islamic countries and other countries which, in the near future, with the help of God, will accept Islam as the sole savior of humanity and there will not even be the slightest deviation from this policy.

Islamic countries and world Muslim people must not depend on the West, Europe, and America, nor should they be dependent upon the East and Russia. God willing, they are attached to God, His Messenger (S) and the absent Imam (AJ) and certainly turning [their] backs on this international policy of Islam will be indeed turning [their] backs on this international policy of

Islam. It will also be turning [their] backs on the aspirations of the Islamic school and treachery towards the Prophet of God and the holy saints. Ultimately it will be the death of the country, our nation and all Islamic countries and the exalted leader of the Islamic Revolution also, in his valuable remarks, greatly emphasized the continuation of this policy.

We still consider the world-monger America as the great Satan and the cause of corruption in this century. We consider any connection and contact with it to resemble the relation between the wolf and a lamb. This is precisely contrary to the interests of the regime of the nation and in opposition to all aspirations of the Islamic Revolution.

Our nation will never forget the decades of crimes by America, before the Revolution and after its victory, towards this nation and country. Not even two years have passed from the shooting down of the Iranian jet liner by the evil hand of the American army and the martyrdom of hundreds of our loved ones. Still the unconditional support of America for our fighting enemy, Iraq, and even utilizing all types of its battleships is [still] before our eyes. Still a large part of American capability is being spent on an all-encompassing war against the Revolution and our Islamic Regime.

Our nation has not forgotten the numerous crimes of the old colonialist England in this country and the recent support of that regime of the evil element and the enemy of God and the messenger of Islam (s), Salmon Rusdie, the heretic.

Our informed people are still mourning the loved ones who, during the eight years of the imposed war, were martyred at the hand of the belligerent Baath army of Iraq. They will never forget the treacheries of the Saud family in providing economic and military aid to the Iraqi regime at war with Iran. Even more disgraceful is the horrible massacre of hundreds of men and women pilgrims at the Sacred House of God which took place three years ago inside the Sacred Shrine. [This,] and forbidding our dear and mourning nation to visit the House of God and the Lighted Garden of the Prophet (S) will not be forgotten.

Our nation considers compromising governments such as the regime of Egypt as partners in numerous crimes of the occupying regime of Jerusalem. Valuable principles of the Revolution and high aspirations of His Eminence the Imam (PBUH) compels us to refrain from establishing relationships with such treacherous and criminal governments, although we shall treat them with utmost generosity, graciousness, and magnanimity.

While pointing out the issue that our political and international relations will not be a function of emotions and sentiments, he said: By sending a few gift packages to the quake victims, neither the ugly and evil face of treacherous governments will be cleansed in the eyes of our nation nor will these acts of compassion, even if without any expectation, have the slightest effect on our

political relations. Our devout and heroic nation has never depended on governments, and by counting on divine aid and its own massive resources has so far solved the problems of the country and will continue to do so. It is best that instead of some of these worrisome delays and weak responses to foreign governments, we give more credence to these self-sacrificing and devout people. [We must] focus our efforts in maintaining the national and Islamic unity. [We must] attract the public opinion of progressive nations of the world and—consistent with strengthening and creating manufacturing units—strengthen the defense capability of the country.

We do not expect America to send several shipments of goods worth 6 million dollars. However, we ask, "If you adhere to human compassion, why don't you return the billions of dollars in our accounts receivable which you have blocked and refuse to pay back?" We say to the government of England that the promise of a 10,000 pound aid—which unfortunately due to a printing mistake was misprinted as 10 million dollars—will not make up for all those crimes in the past and support for the enemies of Islam. We say to the Government of Iraq that, instead of promises of aid, it should at least return our planes and other equipment which it has plundered and show its good faith, if only once, by the implementation of Resolution 598, as it stands.

On behalf of the world Muslims, we say to all the arrogant and their lackeys that the expected sign of compassion from you is no more than refraining from animosity toward the revolution and our dear nation's Islamic regime.

In another part of his speech, Mr. Montakhabnia referred to the deliverance of pagans [demonstrations] and emphasized to the pilgrims of the Sacred House of God that: We expect from the pilgrims to send shivers down the spines of the world arrogants and their lackeys by their thundering cries in the Sacred House of God and thus continue on the lighted path of this heroic nation and the sacred line of the dear imam. As the exalted leadership remarked: Haj without the deliverance [of pagans], Haj without solidarity, Haj without uprising and revolution, and Haj which does not threaten heresy and paganism cannot be considered as Haj.

The speaker also referred to the events of 28 June and martyrdom of 72 of the loyal disciples of the imam, led by the innocent martyr Ayatollah Dr. Beheshti and said: The 28 June is a reminder of the historic crime of America and its lackey grouplet, the anti-God, blind heated and anti-people hypocrites who, according to our great imam, took away from the people a group that was sincere, and who were active servants of the people and die-hard oppositions to the enemies of the country and the nation.

In this great tragedy, the Iranian nation lost 72 of the innocent which is the same count martyrs of Karbala [battlefield of the Prophet's grandson.] Although each

and every one of the martyrs of 28 June were valuable servants, including the 27 deputies of the Islamic Consultative Majles, however, the innocent martyr Beheshti—according to the imam—was a nation by himself [in the service of] our nation.

He was a thorn in the flesh of the enemies of Islam. He lived innocently and was martyred innocently. The role of this brave man in victory and in the implementation of the Revolution, in the Revolution Council, in the Council of Experts, the ratification of the Constitution and the formation of the judicial branch is not hidden from anyone. He used to say: "Tell America to be angry at us and die of its anger." It is required of us to follow his path, which is the path of the imam, by clarifying the Islamic values of the innocent martyr and the realization of his aspirations.

Haji-Naseri, Zanjan deputy: In Zanjan Province 140 villages have sustained 80 to 100 percent destruction.

The forth pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Haji-Naseri, the representative of the people of Zanjan and Tarom Olya. In his remarks, he glorified the memory of the martyrs of 28 June and the martyrs of the Sacred House of God and offered his condolences to the Muslim nation of Iran and the survivors of the harrowing earthquake.

He then pointed out his five day tour of the Tarom Olya district and said: This devastating quake struck six districts out of the nine districts of Zanjan Province. According to the latest statistics, as of this date, 338 villages have sustained damages of which the level of destruction in 140 have been 80 to 100 percent; in 31 villages it has been between 60 to 80 percent; and under 60 percent damage has been sustained by 78 villages.

The afflicted families in the province number 23,010 of which 9,341 are from Tarom Olya. The number of casualties is 4,257, of which 3,353 are from the Tarom Olya. This shows the extent of the damage and depth of the calamity in this deprived and innocent district.

I extend my congratulations and offer my appreciation to all private and government rescue and aid missions, organizations, provincial directorate generals, the rescue headquarters stationed in Zanjan Province and the Red Crescent in connection with the prompt dispatch of material, rescue operations to save the victims, collecting and burying the dead, transportation of the wounded and disabled, and the feeding and housing of the refugees. Overall, these activities were conducted in the framework of a suitable organization and by the utilization of forces. However, we must point out that if rescue missions had arrived sooner in the Tarom Olya, which had the most number of casualties, we would not have witnessed so many deaths as a result of the earthquake. The reasons [for this delay] ranges from bad mountainous roads, a poor communications system, unavailability of means of transportation—such as ambulances—the lack of hospitals or equipped dispensaries in the isolated and innocent district of Tarom Olya, the

lack of preparedness by the rescue forces, and their inability to act quickly, which caused the number of casualties to go up to this level.

I give notice to the Islamic and diligent government of Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Muslimin Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani in regard to the shortages of tents for temporary housing, the collection of dead animals, the fumigation of the region, tetanus vaccine, the irrigation of rice paddies, fruit orchards and farms, the harvest and purchase of agricultural products at suitable prices by the government and appropriate government organizations.

He added: I must remind [all] that the most substantial capability, energy, budget, planning and expertise must be utilized for the rebuilding [of the devastated areas] and there should be no excuses in regard to sheltering the dear victims and tending to their needs.

I proclaim here that the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic will depend solely upon domestic forces for reconstruction and repair of the damages caused by the earthquake. Certain opportunistic governments should not think that this is a good chance [for them] and that they can exploit the situation to their own advantage and interest. Of course, the Islamic Republic will accept all aids congruent with feelings of compassion and [solely] aimed at rescue efforts from all countries, except those mentioned by the respected president. However, it will not agree to give the slightest advantage in this regard to any [government].

In conclusion, Mr. Haji-Naseri thanked the personnel and pilots of the Army Air Corps, the [Revolution] Guards, the [Construction] Crusade, the Hezbollah forces and the martyr-nurturing people of Zanjan for their efforts during rescue missions and aid to the six afflicted districts of Tarom Olya. He also thanked the exalted leadership for the designation and dispatch of his special representatives to Gilan and Zanjan provinces. He also expressed hope that the appropriate organizations and rescue headquarters carry out their utmost efforts in cooperation with the representatives of the leadership.

Qomi, Varamin deputy: Resistance and patience of the Islamic nation in dealing with unexpected calamities is a divine blessing.

The last pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Qomi, the representative of the people of Varamin. In his speech, he referred to the anniversary of martyrdom of the victims of 28 June incident and its coincidence with the recent devastating earthquake, and stated: Memory of the great martyrs of the 28 June is being glorified at a time when the nation of Islam mourns the harrowing deaths of victims of the devastating earthquake in some cities. Bearing the pain of the loss of the innocent martyr, Ayatollah Beheshti, and 72 of the disciples of the imam and Islam along with the sad loss of the quake-stricken compatriots is very difficult but [at the same time] the commendable resistance and patience of the Islamic

nation in dealing with unexpected calamities is a divine blessing for the Islamic nation.

I offer my condolences on the occasion of innocent martyrdom of victims of the 28 June [incident], the third anniversary of deaths of pilgrims to Honorable Mecca and [deaths of] victims of the earthquake to the Almighty God and the exalted leader of the Revolution. I also extend my thanks and gratitude to the government, organizations, institutions and charitable organizations that helped in giving aid to victims of the earthquake.

In reference to the anniversary of deaths of bloodied-shroud of Abraham-like pilgrims he said: Three years have passed from the bloody deaths of those who ascended from their white shrouds to reach the gathering of angels and holy ones. They were guests who had come to the Sacred House of God to respond to the call of God and to shout for the deliverance of pagans as was the way of prophets, imams and the late and great leader of the Islamic Revolution, those who denounce and reject all idols. But, the armed agents of those who tore down the wall of respect of Haj, following the footsteps of the sons of Abu Sofian [the Prophet's uncle and most prominent enemy], America and Israel, martyred them not in Karbala but in the Sacred House of God and thus became worse than Yazid [caliph and grandson of Abu Sofian].

The crime which lasted four hours and yet held the essence of 14 centuries of pure Mohammadan Islam. One that [exemplified] the flogging of the likes of Balal [black slave bought and freed by the Prophet to become the caller to prayer in the Prophet's camp] on Mount Abu Qays while the wheel-chaired disabled who lived with the burning love of God were being subject to floggings by the agents of Abu Jahl [another uncle and enemy of the Prophet] around the Jinn Mosque. Men and women had been surrounded, like the tribe of Abu Talib [another uncle and supporter of the Prophet]—the likes of young Zahra [daughter of the prophet] had suffered miscarriages and lost their babies, mothers of martyrs suffered broken ribs and bruised arms. This was done before the eyes of the brave followers of Ali son of Abu Talib (A). If one day the Kaabah can tell the story, humanity, with all its capacity [for pain and suffering] will cry. The exalted leader of the Revolution said: Haj is the symbol oneness, negation of Satan and repeat of the slogan of Abraham.

He emphasized: We must be sure that if we maintain our principal position and fulfill our duties, as our late imam prescribed, Islam will conquer all key trenches of the world. If America and banner holders of American Islam, such as the criminal Fahd, have put on masks of compassion and try to cleanse themselves—by adopting the appearance of helping victims of the earthquake in order to sympathize with us—they must know that it is the response of the nation of Islam that the account of governments is separate from that of nations. We, young and old, all know that vengefulness, animosity and continued treachery of America against humanity and Islam is part of our beliefs. Blood of the innocent and the

downtrodden has left such a stain on America that even oceans of water will not be able to cleanse it. This vicious animal intends to take advantage of an emotional occasion which has befallen our nation and erase from memory the history of its crimes with a handful of dollars and a few packages of medicine as gift. It is interesting that, at present, over \$12 billion of the money belonging to the nation of Islam has been frozen in American banks and treasury. Over 200 times the amount that America has claimed to be willing to pay as aid to victims of the earthquake is owed us as the blood money for those who were martyred in the blue waters of the Persian Gulf as a result of America's Satanic act.

America and its lackeys realized that the thesis of direct discussions does not have any appeal among this nation who follows Ruhollah [Khomeyni]. Now, they have put forward the direct opposite scenario and wish to cleanse itself from this harrowing and strange experience with a few planes and a few packages of medicine.

First, if we study the actions of America, on the domestic as well as international arenas, we see shamelessness, ruthlessness, lack of compassion, viciousness, plundering, aggression, and the monster of death and destruction. We see the effects of America's crimes in Vietnam, Panama, Korea, Palestine, and other parts of the world.

On the one hand, America expels the innocent people of Palestine from their homes and land—those who have been living under tents for over 40 years—and, on the other hand, with a few dollars worth of political charity aims to portray itself as compassionate.

We have seen how many of the people of the quake-stricken regions were dragged in their blood during the 15 Khordad [5 Jun 1961] incident [first Khomeyni-led riots], 17 Shahrivar [8 Sep] and the imposed war. Now, what has happened is that it has taken on the cause of the downtrodden, the deprived, and compassion for humanity.

As the late imam stated: The Saudi regime must know that America has left a stain of shame on it that will never be cleansed even with the water of Zamzam [sacred fountain near Mecca that appeared to Hajar during her plight] and the water of Kawsar [water from the heavens]. How can this crime be forgotten with a few packages of medicine?

In conclusion Mr. Qomi said: Esteemed officials of the Islamic regime must take note of the fact that it is our final slogan and our imam's assertion that, "The one that has been treacherous towards our country is America and we shall oppose it as long as we live."

Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles: Instead of apologizing, the Saud family has flagrantly blocked the path of God

Legal and Majles Bureau: In yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles, Hojjat ol-Islam Val Muslimin Karrubi, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative

Majles in reference to the anniversary of 28 June incident said: In this incident a collection of best disciples of the imam, headed by the valuable martyr Ayatollah Dr. Beheshti, were martyred.

Majles speaker then continued with an analysis of the situation and the difficult conditions prevailing in the 28 June incident and said: "Under those difficult conditions, the blind-hearted hypocrites were thinking that with this dangerous blow the regime of Islamic Republic will collapse. However, as a result of diligence and resistance of the people and prophet-like leadership of the imam the conspiracy was neutralized. Not even a single session of the Islamic Consultative Majles, which 27 of its deputies were martyred, was suspended. With the participation of the wounded deputies the government's cabinet was soon reshuffled and His Eminence the imam replaced the martyrs with the new judicial officials."

Mr. Karrubi added: Instead of causing despair and disappointment in the hearts of the people, this conspiracy resulted in a new wave of happiness and solidarity which resulted in thunder-like victories of the Islamic combatants in the fronts.

He then made reference to the massacre of pilgrims at the House of God on the [infamous] bloody Friday and said: In line with its prophecy and following the instructions of the great imam, our nation was conducting demonstrations for solidarity among Muslims and the deliverance of pagans—in conjunction with prayer, submission and rituals of Haj. The usurp government of the Saud family, with a calculated plan, dragged the demonstration of deliverance of pagans in blood and dirt and martyred a group [of the pilgrims].

Mr. Karrubi then mentioned that the focus of the slogans [during the demonstrations] was America—the cause of all corruption and destruction—and Zionism. He emphasized: These slogans could not be tolerated by the Saud family and, therefore, under U.S. pressure, it clashed with Muslims. However, instead of apologizing to the Guests of God, the Islamic Republic Government and families of martyrs, they have flagrantly blocked the path of God and have deprived the dear people of Iran from visiting the Noble Shrines for the past three years.

The Majles speaker emphasized that: To safeguard and protect the achievements of the Revolution and the imam, we have resisted for ten years but, we will not compromise the principles—under any circumstances—with any government.

He then mentioned that, our spiritual bond with the Prophet, His Holiness [Prophet] Abraham and Kaabah is unbreakable and added: During the past several years the Islamic Republic of Iran worked hard for the dispatch of pilgrims. However, the government of the Saud family belligerently hindered the pilgrimage. This is as a result of the dependence of the Saud family on America.

In conclusion, Mr. Karrubi stated that the only solution to the problem is the administration of the two holy

shrines by a number of scholars and qualified individuals and expressed hope that this matter will be realized.

After the remarks by Mr. Karrubi, the Islamic Consultative Majles came to order. The first order on the agenda was the investigation of the legal plan for the creation of facilities for the devotees [disabled veterans] of the Islamic Revolution and the imposed war (repealed by the Council of Guardians). The amendments to the plan were passed by the deputies.

According to the implemented amendments in Article 8, the Ministry of Commerce and all responsible organizations are obligated to, in regards to other than fixed and earned rights of individuals, prioritize the provision of building material, machinery, raw material and other goods for employment plans concerning the devotees [disabled veterans].

Also, according to Article 13, the cooperative fund which has been formed in accordance with the letter of paragraph 31 of sub-article 12 of the 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] budget law, all economic, commercial, and investments aimed at and necessary for the expansion and support of the cooperative sector will have to be with consideration of priority for the devotees' [disabled] cooperatives.

According to Article 16, all banks are obligated to—with consideration for the monetary policies of the government—allocate the required credit for plans which are requested by applicants mentioned in this law (with at least 90 percent of the fixed capital needed for the plan) and pay them [to applicants] with minimum banking charges.

According to Article 30, those devotees who have gained employment before the ratification of this law, have returned to their previous jobs or have been employed by another organization in some form of employment will also qualify under this law. Organizations are obligated to act according to their status under this law and make payment of all their [disables] salary and designated benefits.

The last item on the agenda in yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was the report of the Agriculture Commission in regard to the bill for the formation of the Corporation for Expansion of Sugar Cane and its Corollary Industries whose general [recommendations] were passed.

According to the single article of this bill, the Agriculture Ministry is authorized to act upon formation of the Corporation for Expansion of Sugar Cane and its Corollary Industries according to paragraph "E" of sub-article 29 of the law of the national first plan.

The Islamic Consultative Majles will hold its open session on Sunday of next week.

*RESALAT Report on 4 Jul 90 Majles Session

90AS0199A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
5 Jul 90 pp 5, 10

[Text] Alireza Farzad, Taft deputy: There is no way except mobilization of the country's facilities to repair the quake damages.

The first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Farzad, the representative of the people of Taft. During his speech, he offered his condolences [to the survivors of] the recent quake and the mass dying of a number of pilgrims to the sacred house of God in the suspicious event of the cut-off of electricity in the Mina Tunnel.

He then said: Praise be upon the good and pious people of our country who, with their financial and spiritual assistance, lessened the grief and suffering of the victims and soothed the hearts and became a healing balm on the wounds of the quake victims. The depth of the disaster is so devastating and the sadness of the sufferers is so limitless that there is no other way but public mobilization of national resources to respond to this damage [situation].

Of course the assistance of other nations and foreign governments, as long as they are outside political designs and games, are commendable. Our brave nation will not permit the aid of some governments such as the criminal America, the Ba'ath Regime of Iraq, the corrupt and puppet governments of [Saudi] Arabia and Egypt to become cover for inauspicious political objectives. It is expected of the officials to behave in accordance with the dignity of the revolution and our nation.

If political issues are not to be taken into consideration and in order to persuade and encourage humane motivation and international issues [then it is clear why] we did not accept the aid of the illegitimate children of America—meaning Israel and South Africa—we could have [also] refrained from accepting the gifts of the nations of America and England as popular gestures without the interference of their governments [as published]. It is obvious that the aid of people such as the evil Salman Rushdie, whose wealth is mixed with the income from publication and distribution of the book *Satanic Verses*, and thus sacrilegious, it cannot be accepted.

He then pointed out the recent statement made by the esteemed president who declared, "Executive managers and ministers must be careful so that the goals of the Five-Year Plan do not become eclipsed by problems and issues, even those such as the recent earthquake," and said: Long before the approval of the plan, the country's executives and economic managers have linked the hopes and aspirations of people to the approval of the plan. Regrettably however, the emphasis and pressure that was being exerted in order to prevent the proclamation of slogans, and still is, while the sincere government of brother Excellency Engineer Musavi, which was being called the "slogan government," had stated that the

country cannot be managed by slogans and this is indeed correct. And yet I must profess that unfortunately, these gentlemen are proclaiming the most slogans.

We keep hearing the slogans of welfare, tranquillity, and good life, and in the past, the slogan of social justice. It is at a time when prices are rising, inflation becomes more pressing, and the culprit in the high prices of some items is the government itself. Yet, there is still the slogan of welfare and lower prices.

He added: It is being said that some invite people to poverty. No one invites people to poverty. The discussion is having a suitable consumption model—thrift and the prevention of waste. Revealing the truth about the shortages of foreign exchange resources and national income and the fact that, for years to come, the possibility of providing a comfortable lifestyle and the steep plummeting of prices does not exist. It is not a slogan and does not have any attraction. Empty and far-fetched slogans must be avoided. Are the people so wealthy and capable that we can beg them to live comfortably? Why does the price of everything have to be constantly increased to the point where, recently, the official price of meat was announced at 330 toman and [yet] we continue with [these] slogans of welfare and lower prices?

The slogan of having a consumption model, thrift, and bearing a series of shortcomings and difficulties, as long as [they apply] for all and coincide with social justice will be very valuable and constructive. Within a short time, economic managers change the foreign exchange rate from 80 toman to 127 toman while simultaneously announcing that there is no system of pricing and price control. If such has been your monetary policy from the start, then it has been a great treachery. The reason for this being that nearly 1 billion dollars of the national foreign exchange was poured into the pockets of a limited few at the rate of 80 toman and still the goods have not appeared in the market in order to announce new prices. Also, there is no price control system. It is regretful if every day you have a new policymaking decision. Such acts have a detrimental effect on the price of goods.

In his speech, Mr. Farzad pointed out: Nowadays there is talk of the advance sale of oil in some circles. The Majles has not granted any permission in this regard and it is contrary to plans. Regrettably, many out-of-plan activities are being observed. In the trip to Italy, a 13-billion-dollar protocol has been signed or in the trip to Austria, a 3-billion-dollar protocol has been signed. Or an out-of-program organization has been tasked with the construction of four dams, which will cost nearly 10 billion toman. This is at a time when, although in the Five-Year Plan, credits have been allocated for illiterates of under 35 years of age and within these credits, capability of implementation is nonexistent. Yet, we go after a 25-billion-rial out-of-program task for the problem of illiteracy. The implementation of such out-of-program moves, elimination of majority of subsidies and presale of oil—if it is indeed being considered—slogans of welfare, tranquillity, and low prices outside the capability of the plan are all

aimed at devaluing the rial and devastating moves that require complete reconsideration.

In continuation of his speech, in reference to recent statements made by the president in Friday prayer sermons regarding "criticism" said: The esteemed president has expressed himself to mean that criticism must be done in true sense of the word. However, criticism means distinguishing between right and wrong, correct and incorrect, and consistent and inconsistent. What is consistent is that the people and government could get a handle on complicated and hot issues arising from the earthquake within four or five days. This is commendable. The very same good and pious people gave up the bread that was on their own tables and rushed to the aid of the government and stood beside it on all issues. Here, also, they are standing by the officials. What is inconsistent is for us to think that people cannot cope with shortages and deficiencies and for the sake of the people's welfare disregard some of their aspirations and slogans by, God forbid, stretching our hand to the enemies of these people such as America and England—which with the grace of God we have not done so.

What is consistent is that the country's officials are on the side of the oppressed and we hear the lessons of social justice from the oppressed. What is inconsistent is that the slogan of social welfare replaces the slogan of social justice. Only in regard to the issue of the rate increase of the dollar, at least 40 billion tomans from the rate increase of the dollar from 80 to 127 tomans [may have] ended up in the pockets of capitalists. What is consistent is that today the officials and the leadership of the regime are standing tall, with the support of the people, to solve national problems and difficulties arising from the eight-year war and to rebuild the country. They have, up to now, stood by the slogans of "no East, no West," independence and greatness of the nation, defense of liberation movements, and support of Palestinian refugees, Afghans, peoples of Kashmir, and Lebanon. What is inconsistent is the loss of nerves and fear of the enemy, especially America. If there is such a thing as inconsistent, it would be discussions about direct talks [with the United States], disregarding the Revolution, diluting the slogans, aspirations, and the claim that in order to solve our economic problems and difficulties we must resolve our problems with America. What is consistent is that the speaker of the Majles, the president, chief of the judicial branch, and all other national leaders speak against speculators and those who interrupt the economic system. What is inconsistent is that not even a single serious ruling has been seen for the smashing of the capitalism that is disrupting the national economy. What is consistent is that we should use our resources—which are not few—to respond to criticisms. What is inconsistent is not having the capacity to hear criticisms and discussions about problems and shortcomings, even those coming from the Majles podium and stated by representatives who are voices of the people, and attack them by labelling them hypocrites, anti-government and, God forbid, against the leader.

The representative of the people of Taft said: These days all dailies and publications have become monotonous and a bad case of self-censorship has been prevailing. It means that all try not to say what may be on their minds. When a government has a program and it works, it is strong and has no weaknesses, there is no need for strengthening [it] and not every move should be perceived as aimed at weakening the government.

Also, the esteemed chief of the judiciary must emphasize the implementation of the Constitution, justice and decisive confrontation of violators. What is inconsistent is that, considering the mass of cases before the judiciary and the fact that there are no clear crime by any one of deputies, it is repeatedly being stated in interviews and speeches that even Majles deputies will not be immune [from punishment by law] in case of wrongdoings. It is as if at the present the only violators and culprits are the Majles deputies. Pure is when we boost the morale of the people by giving rosy promises and proclamation of policies and programs. What is inconsistent is that the economic managers of the country disclaim any responsibility regarding their foreign exchange policies, which has led to a steep rise in the foreign exchange rate rather than bringing it down. It is consistent when the radio and television become the speaking tongue of the Islamic Revolution, the pure Mohammaden Islam, promoter of the thoughts and ideas of the imam and the loud voice of the deprived and downtrodden. It is inconsistent if, God forbid, radio and television be pulled into political games, factionalism, supporting a specific group, crowd or trend or become selfish. It is inconsistent if you and I, as deputies and the Islamic Consultative Majles, instead of bringing into attention shortcomings and problems by taking advantage of the right of supervision, questioning, investigating, and studying of the Majles be forced to correct the problems. It is incorrect to portray every move by the Islamic Consultative Majles as confronting the government, opposition to the rule of jurisprudence, and by speeches and repetition of problems launch on attrition of even those who brought up the issue in the first place. It is right for thinkers and scientists to bring up the political, economic, cultural, and fundamental problems and difficulties through newspapers. In this connection I am thankful for the recent article in the daily RESALAT titled "Let Us Burn the Roots," although I disagree with some its contents.

In doing this, it is incorrect to aim at smashing one or several individuals and the writings lead to no results other than raising more questions and causing helplessness in people.

The judicial branch must reveal the information about the present cases and investigate these files along with thousand other files expeditiously and decisively. Today, the judiciary enjoys full confidence and endorsement of the leader and the esteemed presidency and the Islamic Consultative Majles will be the support for their revolutionary conduct, speed, and decisiveness.

In conclusion of his speech he wished success for the president and his government. He also glorified the memory of the dear martyrs of the downed jetliner by the American warship and proclaimed: I present the anger and hatred that is in my heart to the evil America and the great Satan. Death to America.

Hasan Jafari, Shahr-e Babak Deputy Government Must Seriously Plan for Civil Defense and Unexpected Events

The second pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Hasan Jafari, the representative of the people of Shahr-e Babak.

At the outset of his speech he stated: The history of the Islamic Revolution of Iran has recorded certain events that will never be erased from the hearts of the nation and every day, for a reason, a page and a memory of those events are being remembered. The year that passed was laden with sad events for the Islamic Revolution and our dear people. The doleful passing of the nation's imam left such a scar on the hearts that may never heal. Especially, these days are reminders of the bitter and sad event of 28 June that took away 72 of the best disciples of the imam and proud men of history from us and caused an irreparable loss to Islam.

He added: These days coincide with the anniversary of the Black Friday of Mecca where hundreds of God's guests were massacred or wounded by Saudi agents in order to curry favor with the criminal America and the global Zionism. The bitterness of the event was such that it will never be forgotten by Muslims of the world and the memory of that sad night will never be forgotten. History will never allow the erasure of this seal of shame from the deceitful faces of the Vahhabi leaders and the treacherous Sa'ud family. I will not forget that in the night the innocent and helpless pilgrims were taking refuge in the mountain and were climbing to find a safe haven. Unfortunately, even the Abu Taleb section and Abu Geys mountain were unsafe because Saudi agents were standing in every corner and practically demonstrating their hundred-years grudge against Shi'ism by pouring stones and clubs atop the innocent pilgrims. The Saudi rulers showed that to them being "servants of the two shrines" is being servants of American capitalism and Zionism and not the shrines of Mecca and al-Madinah. Now we have been informed that hundreds of pilgrims to the House of God lost their lives in the Mina Tunnel two days ago. This is additional proof of the incompetence of Saudi rulers in administering the sacred shrines, especially the great Mecca. We offer our condolences to the families [of victims].

Continuing Mr. Jafari added: Another point is the unexpected natural disasters that are different loads of sadness atop others. This includes the recent quake in Gilan and Zanjan provinces, which took many of our loved ones from us and caused the mourning of thousands of families by leaving behind many dead, wounded, and homeless. It caused such a calamity that left the Iranian nation as well as the rest of the world breathless. It is so

deep that it cannot fit the imagination and, in all fairness, the number of casualties and financial losses cannot be explained in words or by pens.

Mr. Jafari then pointed out that he had been among the people of Rudbar for many years as their Friday Prayer Leader and said: The people of Rudbar were full of kindness and, pious and devoted to Islam, dedicated to the Revolution and loved the imam of the nation. In the noble line of leadership, for instance, when there was talk of the war-stricken cities in the first days of the war I saw them disregard their own needs and hand over most of their possessions to appropriate headquarters. When they felt that the war front needed financial support, they became so active that workers and employees of all the factories, especially the Sang-e Rud mines, allocated a day's salary each month for remittance to the war front. When they found out that there was need for fresh forces in the fronts, the brave youth of Rudbar, Manjil, Lows-han, and the surrounding districts anxiously left for the fronts. It was at the start of the war when the first group was being dispatched from the city of Manjil. It was interesting that in a bus that had room for 40 passengers, 53 of them packed in to go and many of them never returned from the land of Zulfaqr [the name of the sword of Ali]. Most of them were the type who congregated on Fridays and gatherings. Many were the type who prayed and meditated. Yes! Such people are today in mourning and without shelter. I offer my condolences to the absent imam (AJ), to the exalted leader Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed presidency and representatives of the jurisprudence in Gilan and Zanjan provinces and the respected representatives from the two provinces in the Islamic Consultative Majles.

He then offered his condolences on the occasion of the demise of Hojjat ol-Eslam Eftekhari, the representative of the people of Fowman. Thanking the people of our country for their sympathy as well other countries and endorsed the government's policy regarding accepting humanitarian assistance from other nations and countries for the quake victims.

While emphasizing the need for temporary and permanent settlement of the victims and hygienic preparation in the region said: It is necessary that the government draw up serious plans for civil defense and unexpected disasters such as flood and earthquake so to avoid being off guard in such instances. There must be a technical solution for a building design in order to prevent losses of human life as well as financial.

In regards to his constituency, the speaker said: The first calamity in this city is that it has been dissected and disintegrated. Second, there is no motivation for living in this town. Man needs to make a living either by way of a business or trade—which is not possible—or by farming which, due to the fact that most underground sources of water have dried up and utilization of surface water is unauthorized, is impossible. There are no factories in this town. Esteemed deputies can guess what injustice has resulted from unemployment in this town.

In the Khatunabad region—which used to be the best area for agriculture—13 underground water sources have dried up and the [remaining water] is being pumped to the big Sarcheshmeh factory. This is only a part of the story. What is even more strange is that, if the poor souls gather a few inches of water from here and there, they are constantly threatened and told to shut off their pumps. At the time when the copper plant was being opened they promised to replace the dried out underground water resources. What have they done so far? What is the fate of over 15,000 inhabitants of this region? What do the administration and regional water authority of Kerman suggest? They should come out and say it.

Recently I wrote a letter to the exalted presidency and requested that he order the authorization of several wells to be dug in the region. He was kind enough to comment that the matter should be investigated so that there is no injustice done to the people (29 January 1990). Regrettably, the regional water company of Kerman province sent a response that I shall read a part of it and leave the judgment to you. I ask the Ministry of Power to think about a solution, although I believe that the ministry have not read this letter.

The regional water company of the province has written: The total volume of water being tapped in the Shahr-e Babak is 158 million cubic meters [of which] 20.5 million cubic meter is being pumped to Sarcheshmeh. On the other hand, in the letter it has been asserted that the regional water for Anar, Biyaz is 260 million cubic meters. Therefore, it has been recommended that permission should not be granted for water to be tapped in the region.

The esteemed deputies can see that the regional water company has not permitted the allocation of water to this city region even as much as a county just converted to district. I request that the Ministry of Power take this matter seriously and ensure the implementation of just distribution of water and do not allow this company to conduct such extortion of the people.

In conclusion he stated: The destruction of the year 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] can still be seen across town. Since then the officials have been busy making decisions and have not come to any conclusion. Therefore, even if they have allocated anything for the prevention of flooding, it has not reached anywhere and flood threatens the city. What is more interesting is that several years ago they decided to allocate 10 wells for unemployed farmers and combatants returning from war fronts. There was much hoopla, writings [in newspapers] and drawings. They invited the homeless kids of Shahryar and Karaj to the city region [Shahr-e Babak]. However, nothing has gone beyond pages of paper.

Ataollah Fazaeli, Semirom Deputy: The Generous Iranian Nation Passed the Divine Test in Aiding the Earthquake Victims.

Mr. Ataollah Fazaeli, the representative of the people of Semirom, was the last pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's

open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. In his speech, he offered his condolences on the occasion of the martyrdom of His Holiness [Imam] Baqer (A), the martyrdom of 72 people on 28 June, the martyrdom of 400 pilgrims in the sacred house of God, the victims who died under the rubble of the quake, and the martyrdom of 290 passengers of the Airbus plane at the hands of American criminals.

He then stated: All phases of life are scenes of tests. Fortunately, the dear, noble, patient, and generous Iranian nation, with the aid of God and by sending extensive aid and offering gifts to quake victims, came out victorious from this test. I thank the military and civil forces, especially our dear and beloved president, the aid committee, aid groups, and each and every one of the great Iranian nation—particularly the brave and dedicated people of Semirom and brave tribesmen of that region—who selflessly rushed to the aid of the brothers and sisters who have been hit by the quake and did not deny them any assistance. I am also thankful to nations and governments who, sincerely and motivated only by humanitarian reasons, sympathized with the Muslim nation of Iran.

The speaker then pointed out that every event, in its own place, is beginning for future successful moves. He said: We must learn from past events. Proper, long-term planning is required for building housing suitable to the environment; roads and centers for commercial activities; and industrial, welfare, educational, hygienic, and rehabilitative services by considering the regional geographic situation and by consulting foreign and domestic engineers and local experts. The Red Crescent must form advance rescue squads, fashioned after rangers, equipped with most modern rescue equipment and techniques for aiding earthquake and flood victims so that in future events it can act more strongly and capably—even be ready for dispatching to the aid of the needy all over the world.

Mr. Fazaeli, in another part of his speech, put the Majles deputies on notice and said: Some of the esteemed Majles deputies, thinking that their listeners are only the ones present in this chamber, make some statements that are not befitting a deputy. [Such statements] divert the direction of the respected deputies thinking from the main goals of [enacting] legislature and—with limited thoughts and expressions—pits the forces that must be utilized for construction against each other. This causes the executive officials to become bold in their disrespect for deputies. As a result, some officials have become so bold that a representative of people cannot meet with a deputy minister without prior appointment, let alone seeing a minister! When a deputy of the Islamic Consultative Majles can be held behind the door of a deputy minister's office, it is absolutely impossible for the people to be able to see the minister. Unfamiliarity and lack of information about laws, replacing directives with law, disregard of executives for law and lawmakers, hiding the law from people in order to impose personal opinions and the volume of people's letters to [their]

deputies are all indications of shortcomings of the executive branch. These shortcomings result from the process of movement in the Islamic Consultative Majles which, by changing the direction of deputies' conceptions, no time is allowed for supervision of the implementation of law.

Also, in another part of his speech, he said: The other issue is the foundation of the divine regime based on Islamic principals and against usury, corruption, revelry, and subjugation. However, there is difference between thievery, being a thief, and instigating a thief. For us to not accept subjugation is a principle, however, without instigating the oppressor.

I beseech the respected speaker of the Majles to pay heed to this issue: The published news in Majles political gazettes are mostly the same as the ones that are stated in meetings of the Majles' Hezbollah or news, which their knowledge or lack of it, is the same to the deputies. Publication of this news plays no role in reconstruction and, is even, detrimental to the regime. Inevitably, it leaks out [overseas]. It is best that, in place of this report, studies of the esteemed deputies in connection with foreign countries, their understandings and views that can be considered in national reconstruction be published.

Then, the representative of the people of Semirom recounted the difficulties of his constituency and said: Farming and animal husbandry are the main vocations of the respected people of the city region of Semirom. About 8 million apple trees have been planted in Semirom and about 3 million livestock graze in this region. Regretfully, animal husbandmen, these hard-working, productive, low-expecting resources of the Revolution have been facing some problems in the current year. The problem of lack of grass [feed], the low price of meat, unruliness of pastures, and the problem of [tribal seasonal] migration. The Economic Council has set the price of meat lower than the expense of raising and keeping livestock. Therefore, animal husbandmen who have already paid back their loans to the Bank-e Keshavarzi [Agriculture Bank] for their livestock have been forced to deliver the [mother] cows to slaughterhouses in order to earn a living. This is absolutely detrimental to the country because there will be shortage of meat in the future, abandonment the vocation of animal husbandry, migration to cities, and conversion of producers to consumers.

The other problem of these dear ones is the problem of their seasonal migration. Pastures on the way to the summer camps have been destroyed by farmers and animal husbandmen are not allowed to stop along the way. They are forced to travel on roads and get to their summer camps within only a few days. Their other problem is the shortage of modes of transportation. In the past they used to move their belongings by horses, mules, camels, and donkeys but today they have lost the traditional means. In the past they used to graze their livestock from winter camp to summer camp but now they have to move them at a high cost to summer pastures.

Another one of their difficulties is their sharing of pastures. In spring, each one tries to get to and move as many livestock as possible to the pastures. Although this is only partially beneficial. However, it would be [more optimum] if the share of each animal husbandman from the pasture were separated, the number of livestock would be in proportion to the area of his pasture, and he would [be made responsible] for the protection of the environment and revitalization of the pasture.

It is [my] suggestion that, like farms, pastures be given to animal husbandmen (on the basis of one hectare for each livestock) and everyone's share be separated from the rest with barbed wire. Second, the High Economic Council set the price of meat at least equal to what is being paid for purchases from foreign countries. It is not right that citizens consume subsidized meat while producers suffer losses and, besides, cannot take advantage of subsidies themselves.

The third suggestion is that, the foreign exchange for meat purchases be put at the disposal of animal husbandmen in the form of long-term loans so that they can purchase transportation facilities, revitalize their herds, and establish summer and winter pastures. Since tribesmen will be allocated pastures in proportion to the number of livestock they hold, not all of them can remain in this vocation. Therefore, the surplus population of tribesman will begin agricultural, commercial, and industrial vocations. In proportion to the number of livestock in each area, slaughter houses and regional cold storages can be built so that the animal husbandmen can hand over their livestock to slaughterhouses on time. Also, better welfare facilities ranging from education, hygiene, and rehabilitation should be provided for tribes.

In conclusion, the speaker addressed the government and reminded [it]: The city region of Semirom is without a labor office, police, traffic police, legal courts, boys' teacher training college, agriculture college, office of The Foundation for the Affairs of the Devotees, and Social Security office. Also, in violation of Articles 12, 13, and 14 of the Law of National Divisions the electric power office of the devotees foundation and the housing foundation of Semirom are being administered by another city region. We hope steps can be taken to alleviate this problem and eradicate deprivation from the Semirom region.

He said: There is potential for building 12 earth and cement dams in Semirom. I ask the esteemed ministers of power, [reconstruction] crusade and agriculture to consider building [such] dams in future plans.

In addition, I thank the exalted chief of the Judicial Branch and esteemed judges of the Judiciary for open trials and speedy investigation of violators, which resulted in a constructive change in judicial organization of the country.

Yesterday's Sanctioned Laws by the Islamic Consultative Majles

Legal and Majles Bureau: The legal plan for correction of Paragraph 7 of Subarticle 17 of the Law of First Program

for Economic, Social and Cultural Expansion of the Islamic Republic of Iran was ratified by the Islamic Consultative Majles.

The report of the parliamentary correspondent of RESALAT regarding yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles indicates that, in regards to the single article and subarticle of the aforementioned plan, which its double urgency was passed in last Sunday's session, it was put to the vote and passed after comments by opponents and proponents of the plan and explanations by government's representative.

According to the single article of this plan, Paragraph 7 of Subarticle 17 of the Law of First Program for Economic, Social and Cultural Expansion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, passed by the Islamic Consultative Majles on 31 January 1990 shall be corrected as follows: 7. Expenses subjects of Subarticle 75 of the National Budget Law for 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] shall be increased tenfold except in the case of Paragraph 5.

Subarticle—The government shall secure the budget shortage resulting from implementation of this law by increasing the fee for the issuance of permits for establishment of legal offices up to maximum fivefold.

Also, the bill for correction of Paragraph "B" of Subarticle 28 of the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] National Budget Law was the second and last order on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles.

In this regard, after remarks by opponent and proponent deputies and explanation of views of the reporter of the commission and government's representative, the generalities of the bill was put to vote and passed by deputies.

The next open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles is scheduled for Sunday 8 July.

*RESALAT Report on 8 Jul 90 Majles Session

90AS0235A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
9 Jul 90 p 5

[Text] The representative of the people of Takestan in the Islamic Consultative Majles:

Continued Supply of Aid to the Quake-Stricken Areas Is Required in Order To Prevent Shortages

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Qahreman Rahmani of the Takestan constituency. At the outset of his speech, he offered his condolences to the Absent Imam (AJ) and the exalted leadership on the occasion of the recent harrowing earthquake in Gilan and Zanjan provinces, which caused extensive losses of human life and property and added:

The death of over 1,400 pilgrims to the House of God in the Mina Tunnel has been an added cause of grief among

the Iranian nation who was in mourning for tens of thousands who died during the recent quake.

The harrowing crushing to death of over 1,400 pilgrims who perished only as a result of being trapped in the overcrowded tunnel is beyond belief. Among factors pointing out the cover up of [the cause of] this event are messages from England and America that are aimed at showing that this was a natural event [disaster]. Also, the messages by some Arab rulers to King Fahd who sufficed by expressing their condolences without demanding that the cause of this event be uncovered. In regards to this issue, it is necessary that all Islamic countries, even through legal channels, take the Saudi regime to task and officially announce the incapability and unworthiness of the Sa'ud family [to run the Muslim shrines]. This is not the first bitter and harrowing event during the past several years. When the security of the pilgrims to the House of God is being handled by American-trained military men, then the occurrence of such disasters is not far from expectation. This bitter event is a strong and certain evidence of the inability and unfitness of the Sa'ud family in the administration of the affairs of the [two] holy shrines. It is required of Islamic thinkers and scientists to immediately hold a conference for an investigation of this crime and dispatch a delegation to the location for an investigation and study of the cause of this event. The reason for this is that the reports issued by chieftains of the Sa'ud family are contradictory, incorrect and, thus, cannot be trusted.

Continuing, Mr. Rahmani presented a report in connection with the earthquake in the Qaqazan region (a district of Takestan city region) and said: The Qaqazan region has over 120 villages half of which, 60 villages, have been severely damaged as a result of this earthquake. [The damages are] such that 4,648 housing units have been extensively damaged. From this number, 2,950 are damaged between 50 percent and 100 percent and the rest are damaged below 50 percent. Accordingly, educational and rehabilitation units as well as other facilities in the villages such as the water reservoir, cooperative store, and others have been destroyed. The number of dead is estimated to be over 300 and 400 have been injured. The brave and devoted people of this region pulled out the casualties during the same night that the disaster struck. The rescue forces rushed to the aid of the victims on Thursday morning, only a few hours after the quake had hit, and evacuated all the wounded. I thank these dear rescue workers and appreciate their efforts.

He added: The people of the earthquake-stricken Qaqazan region have already taken care of the need for food and [kitchen utensils] and there are no problems in this regard. However, continued supply of aid to the quake-stricken areas is required in order to prevent shortages. The problem of tents have been resolved for units that have been destroyed over 50 percent. However, there is still a need for tents for units that have been

damaged less than 50 percent. We request that the Red Crescent pays needed attention to the provision of about 50 thousand tents.

Another issue that concerns the afflicted people is the problem of the Voice and Vision [radio and television]. The Voice and Vision has yet to broadcast a full report about the Qaqazan region and many people are still unaware that the calamity of the earthquake in this region has been the cause of much loss of human life as well as property. Even in the Majles, many of my colleagues ask me if there has also been an earthquake in my region. It is expected of the Voice and Vision to solve this small but very important problem as soon as possible.

The representative of the people of Takestan stated: The main issue is reconstruction of villages. This region is in a cold climate and many are aware of the [extreme] cold of the Kouhin Pass. The time for work [action] is very limited and people are worried about winter and the cold [weather.] The government should announce its policy regarding the reconstruction and state the course of action it wants to take. Does it plan to give loans, aid, or supply prefabricated houses. Of course, it is my suggestion that if facilities are put at their disposal, the local residents will quickly rebuild. Indeed, there should be some supervision to ensure that the work is conducted according to technical and engineering standards.

The speaker added: Qaqazan, with 120 villages, is a very scattered area [in term of population centers]. As you know, Takestan is located between Qazvin and Zanjan. However, the center of Qaqazan, Kuhin, and Aqarobat are in the Qazvin-Rasht axis, which is very unusual. During the unjust regime of the shah improper [land] divisions had been made. It is my and the afflicted people to request from the esteemed Majles and respected colleagues to readily change the status of the Qaqazan region to district—considering that it has all the requirements and qualifications in accordance with the Law of National Divisions. However, it does not make any difference if it is under the administrative jurisdiction of Qazvin or Takestan.

The speaker thanked Mr. Hashemian, the deputy speaker of the Majles, and a number deputies who traveled to the stricken areas and consoled the afflicted people. He also thanked the speaker of the Majles and governor general of Zanjan for their inspection of the quake-stricken areas and the timely dispatch of rescue workers as well as aid material. He then presented an account of the aid provided by the people of the city region of Takestan for the quake victims, which included bread, blankets, potatoes, flour, cement, rice and, other [such goods].

Reza Zehi, Saravan Deputy: With the Power and Might of God, Our Islamic Revolution Has Caused Movements Against Arrogance Among Other Oppressed Nations

Mr. Reza Zehi, the representative of the people of Saravan, was the second pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session. At the outset, he praised the

sacred spirit of the nation's late imam and conveyed his greetings to the exalted leader of the Revolution. He then expressed his gratitude and appreciation towards the president and others involved for the government's attention to the peoples of deprived regions in the Five-Year Plan.

While referring to the imam's emphasis on unity and solidarity, the speaker stated: An important issue that His Eminence the imam repeatedly pointed out and emphasized was this verse from the holy Koran that, "Connect [yourselves] to the rope of God and do not disperse [Koranic verse]." Oneness, solidarity and unity among people is an integral part of the Revolution. As a single hand, all must hang on to the Rope of God in order to be victorious in the shadow of the divine solidarity.

Continuing he added: Now, with the Power and Might of God, our Islamic Revolution has caused movements against arrogance among other oppressed nations.

It is appropriate to take positive and effective steps in the direction of the eradication of cultural, economic, social, and hygienic deprivation, especially in the deprived frontier areas of the country that are, indeed, gateways for the export of the Revolution and the esteemed officials and all others involved must diligently participate in this precise planning.

The speaker then recounted the need of his constituency and said:

1. Due to Saravan's strategic location and 380 kilometers of common border with Pakistan, building an airport in this distant frontier town has been the long desired wish of the people and officials of this region. Allocation of a larger budget for the current year, in view of the Five-Year Plan, for construction and utilization [of this airport] is requested.

2. Since the greatest source of deprivation in the deprived regions is the lack of local experts, therefore, it seems necessary that for a long-term solution of problems, a larger quota should be allocated to the deprived locals who take the entrance examinations for universities and scientific and specialized technical institutions of higher education. God Willing, this will be noted by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and the esteemed officials.

3. Providing adequate housing in line with provision of welfare for most of the hardworking government teachers in the city region of Saravan is a necessity for the expansion of cultural-training atmospheres of educational environments, schools, and workshops.

4. I thank brother Dr. Kalantari, the esteemed minister of agriculture, for activities of the agriculture officials in the province. I would like to mention several important and fundamental requirements of the farmers in the region. These farmers are operating in desert regions and face many problems and therefore request a bigger allocation of such agricultural equipment as tractors,

combines, vans, trucks, loaders, graders, bulldozers, motor pumps, and respective spare parts.

5. Rainwater, which is God's Blessing and is once every year, is the most important factor in the life of this region. For the sake of healthy exploitation of this divine blessing, the construction of dams and spreading the flood water into regional rivers (annually billions of cubic meters of their water is wasted or flows toward Pakistan) is necessary. One of these regions is considered a giant agricultural pole in which there are 250 deep and semideep wells capable of supplying water for two hours daily on a continuous basis, the owners of which are downtrodden and small land owners. Therefore, I request that the esteemed officials of the Ministry of Power pay adequate attention to this important and life sustaining factor so that the shortage and waste of water can be prevented. Considering the high costs of spare parts for the motor pumps of regional farmers, [I] request that the esteemed officials coordinate activities to switch them to electrical power in order to lower expenses so that the farmers can continue to produce agricultural products with more dedication.

6. One of the inauspicious policies of global arrogance is the distribution of narcotics in the region. In order to fill the leisure time of the people, attention should be paid to constructing sports fields, and creating green space and training centers in these deprived frontier regions.

7. Considering the shortage of drinking water in the Saravan City region and the drying up of several creeks in this area has resulted in the destruction of thousands of Mozafati [a type of date] trees and an exodus of a number of people from those areas. I request that the dear brother Zangeneh, minister of power, find a solution before the appearance of catastrophe and provide the water for Saravan and its surrounding areas from another river in this region. I must explain that most of the water of regional rivers is gathered in the mentioned land and eventually seeps into the ground.

8. The [construction of] unfinished regional projects and the large bridge in the area, are proceeding slowly and this has raised the concern of the deprived people of the frontier and this region. I ask the esteemed government to expedite the work of these projects.

9. Expediting the electrification of villages in this region will have a positive impact on the economic, social, cultural, hygienic, and political advances of the people. I ask the esteemed minister of Reconstruction Crusade to be helpful as always and order that these villages of the city region be included in the electrification project.

In conclusion, due to the shortage of fuel his constituency faces, he asked the minister of petroleum to take appropriate action in this deprived frontier region.

Alhoseyni, in yesterday's open session of the Majles: Islamic Countries Must Exert All Efforts To Neutralize and Smash Usurper Israel's Expansionist Plans

Mr. Alhoseyni, the representative of the people of Arak, was the last pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. In his remarks, he offered his congratulations on the occasion of the birthday of His Holiness Imam Hadi (A) and then in regard to the recent calamity of the earthquake stated: The disaster of the quake afflicted and caused all to mourn. Public assistance during this harrowing sadness is indeed worthy of appreciation and thanks. I find it necessary to extend my gratification for the endless and widespread assistance of the people of Arak and the good participation of the officials of the province.

Continuing he added: Nowadays, the Islamic world is more than ever subject to the danger and threat of Israel. Israel, with new threats and expansionist [goals], seeks to mobilize for the immigration of Jews from all over the world and its colonial programs and moves to drag the region into another conflict. Predictions of Moscow's political-military experts, worrisome statements of the UN secretary general, and other existing conjectures can be somewhat indicative of the seriousness of a new war in the Middle East. Therefore it seems that we must have precise calculations to protect the interests of the region and our nationality. We must focus all efforts towards strengthening the sacred Islamic bond in the region so that in case of an offensive by the Usurper Israel against Islamic and Arab countries, we can have a stronger defensive power.

In another part of his remarks, the speaker stated that the existence, legitimacy, and health of the Islamic Regime [hinges on] the presence and active role of the people in it and stated: If anyone, knowingly or unknowingly and in line with global arrogance, seeks to somehow neutralize the people and their role or push them aside, no doubt, he/she is not following national interests. Gaining the satisfaction of the people is the final and certain obligation of all officials and national managers. Islam is the forerunner in attending to the people and their satisfaction. Among the great miracles of Islam is the foundation of its rule of people and one of the important factors in the success of Islam in a unified world government is the popular base of the system, which must not be lost at any cost. They [people] are our master and we are obligated to fulfill our responsibilities before them and respond to their aspirations, culture, welfare, security, freedom, and independence.

Regretfully, the incorrect perception [shared by some people] that people are not to be considered anywhere [within the framework of] the regime and believe that rule without people is possible, regardless of it being for the sake of God or for their own satisfaction, is dangerous for the country and Islam.

In this connection, Mr. Alhoseyni stated: The Majles that has come from the people must remain popular and strengthened. Shortsightedness must be put aside and

political goals must function within the framework of interest of the country in accordance with the constitution and laws sanctioned by the Islamic Consultative Majles. Councils must also function according to the law. We are now strong, stable, and without any fear in our hearts and, indeed, such activities result in the strength of the system.

Regretfully, we must concede that most of our national problems and people's difficulties are not from lawlessness but as a result of maltreatment of the people by the executive branch, the practice of unjust discrimination, disregard of the laws, unruliness, irresponsibility, and incorrect and illogical relationships. In offices, human and legal relations has collectively resulted in a lack of progress in the conduct of affairs without favoritism, bribery, or connections. It is such that it was announced by the national inspector general that 80 percent of people's complaints concerning offices are valid.

On the other hand, a part of the economic problems is on the shoulders of governmental organizations and public corporations. Therefore, in an attempt to reduce government activities within the framework of the constitution and the real needs of society, the government's economic activities must be cleansed as well. The reason for government monopoly in many social and economic areas is the lack of growth and national underdevelopment, the methods leftover from the [past] satanic regime and the lack of adequate grounds for the delegation of additional responsibilities due to the unpreparedness of the cooperative and public sectors.

In addition, the number of government employees and organizations have increased continuously. The number of employees, salary earners, and wage earners of the government has increased from 450,000 in the year 1335 [21 March 1956-20 March 1957] to 3.5 million in the year 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987]. Therefore, administrative and economic reform and the guidance of this massive force of government employees—and naturally that growth and loss from an organization that covers 30 percent of the national employment—requires capable management.

He added: Among the most important and positive policies of the Five-Year Plan—the violations of which we hope to be minimal and we must try with great effort to make effective in national reconstruction—is the utilization and exploitation of the maximum available national capabilities. According to the esteemed deputy of the Plan and Budget Organization, currently we have 5,000 rials [worth of] unfinished plans which, if not completed [within the scheduled time] will result in annual late fees of 500 billion rials. Is it not suitable that we have dedicated managers capable of exploiting the untapped capabilities in order to complete the unfinished projects with their capability and know-how?

[With regards to] the question of borrowing and utilizing foreign facilities, which in the reconstruction plan is considered as an economic given, if we cannot, by

correcting the administrative and management system, achieve the desired results at least it can be depended upon [considered]. During the past 10 years, Turkey has repaid 40 billion dollars towards its foreign debt, only 18 billion dollars of which has been toward the interest of the received loans. Thus, the foreign debt volume of this country has gone from 13.6 billion [dollars] in 1980 to 41.2 billion [dollars] in 1989.

Continuing he added: In principle the Islamic regime is a system for the pious and the worthy and a regime of high human values. We should not allow those who were the subject of harassment as a minority and had no room in the corrupt regime of the past to be pushed aside and again be isolated despite their capabilities and thus deprive the regime of the sincere efforts of a great number of these people. Why do some in the high executive echelons act in a way that results in the elimination of good and expert forces acceptable by society? Why is no value given to the trust of the people. We hope that the High Administrative Council, headed by the esteemed president, is reactivated and conducts a serious investigation of these problems.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Arak in connection with the appointment of the director general of education and training of the Central Province said: Following memorandums and objections by me to the minister of education and training regarding the unfit appointment of the director general of education and training of the Central Province, one who lacked any political and moral [values], whose political credentials I mentioned, and none other, according to the information received about his reaction while accepting all points discussed, has been resistant in order to maintain posture and political considerations. May God have mercy on us with all these political [games].

It is indicated in the newsletter that the people who have been fired, suspended or forced to resign have been mostly, in the past serious participants in the revolution, the war and the front, the brother of several martyrs, from the family of martyrs and have actively participated in retrieving the [education system] from the grip of satanists and the grouplets. Also, all of these people hold master's degrees except several of them who hold associate degrees. Thus, the worst possible, uncultured, and immoral treatment was given to them. Therefore, in line with my duties as a deputy, I stated the objection of most educators and the people of the city region of Arak and spread this everywhere. The dear educator colleagues also must be steadfast in their constructive endeavors and be patient so that, God willing, officials will make the appropriate decision.

Laws Sanctioned in Yesterday's Open Session of the Islamic Consultative Majles

The first item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was a bill for the correction of paragraph "B" of subarticle 28 of the National Budget Law for 1369. After the remarks by

opponents and proponents, the generalities of the bill were passed by deputies. Then the Majles continued with the details of this bill with which its correction and subarticle were passed as follows:

First Article: The last part of paragraph "B" of subarticle 28 of the National Budget Law for the year 1369 shall be corrected as follows: All belongings subject of this paragraph—except the following that must be offered for sale in consideration of General Accounting Law and the guidelines for government transactions—may be sold solely by way of bidding, and respective organizations do not have the right to transfer them to any real person, be they from the government or nongovernmental:

1. Sale of medicine, medical tools, and equipment to the Martyr Foundation, Ministry of Hygiene, Rehabilitation and Medical Training and the units attached to this ministry, the Red Crescent of the Islamic Republic of Iran, sale of medicine for livestock to the National Animal Husbandry and Ministry of Construction Crusade.
2. All tools and equipment related to recording and broadcasting sound and picture and their needed material under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance at prices determined by an expert selected by the minister of culture and Islamic Guidance. (Regular recording machines shall be exempt from inclusion in this paragraph per the determination of the Ministry of Islamic Guidance.)
3. Ammunition, combat material, all kinds of explosives, intelligence material, other goods mainly needed and used by ministries, public corporations, military and law-enforcement organizations.
4. Consumer goods needed by members of cooperative companies, government employees, and wage-earners and ETKA [armed forces cooperative] organization.
5. Goods needed for use in national reconstruction projects.
6. Gold, jewelry, gold and silver coins at a price equal to or greater than the price determined by an expert selected by the minister of economic affairs and treasury.
7. Perishable goods and animals.
8. In cases when, per the determination of the minister of economic affairs and treasury, suitable buyer or buyers have not participated in the bidding.

Memorandum - Ministry of Economic Affairs and Treasury is obligated to transfer all rugs and kelims and, also, motor vehicles subject of paragraph "B" of subarticle 28 of the 1369 Budget Law at a price that is determined by the official expert selected by the minister of economic affairs and treasury as payment of government debts to the National Retirement Fund. Payment of the sum of memorandums 1 and 2 of the single-article Law of Correction of Article 19 of Smugglers, passed in 1312 [21 March 1933-20 March 34] and follow-up corrections passed in 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985], for properties subject of this subarticle shall be accordingly the task of the aforementioned fund. Prices of the transferred properties to the Fund shall be considered as part of the properties of the subarticle of the 1369 Budget Law.

The report by the parliamentary correspondent of RESALAT from yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles indicates that the second item on the agenda was the second round of deliberations by the Plan and Budget Commission in regard to the legal plan for correction of table 6 of the Law for the First Economic, Social, and Cultural Expansion Plan for the Islamic Republic of Iran and attachment of two subarticles to it.

In this regard, per the suggestion of 45 deputies and ratification by the Majles, 14 billion rials from the credit forecast in table 6 for other current expenses shall be exclusively allocated to the Higher Education Sector. Continuation of investigation of the above bill was postponed until the next open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles.

It must be noted that at the end of this session the receipt of the Bill for granting permission to a deputy minister or administrator of an independent organizations to participate in meetings of high councils and other gatherings which, according to the law, are participated in by several ministers was announced.

The Islamic Consultative Majles will hold an open session tomorrow morning.

Memorandums of Deputies to Executive Officials

*Mr. 'Abedi, Behbahan deputy: To the Petroleum Ministry; to expedite the appointment of the head of the region 1 of the National Gas Company, which has been vacant for the past two years.

*Mr. Amid Zanjani, Tehran deputy: To the Petroleum Ministry; investigation of the unruly situation of gas distribution companies in southern Tehran.

*Mr. Seyyed Rasul Musavi, Ahvaz deputy: To the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Treasury; to expedite the investigation of the production and salary of the Ahvaz Sugar Refinery. To the minister of construction crusade and Ministry of Petroleum; to expedite the efforts for solving the problem of water for villages in the Mahshahr-Ahvaz axis.

*Mr. Mollazehi, Iranshahr deputy: To the Petroleum Ministry; to expedite the construction of the fuel depot and provision of fuel for Iranshahr city region.

*Mr. Tajgardan, Kohkiluyeh, and Gachsaran: To the Interior Ministry; to expedite the investigation of the housing situation for quake victims in the Rud-e Talkhi region of Dehdasht-e Kohkiluyeh.

*Mr. Qoreyshi, Khomein deputy: To the Petroleum Ministry; speedy resolution of kerosene shortage in Khomein.

*Mr. Pudineh, Zabol deputy: To the Petroleum Ministry; resolution of gas and other fuel shortages in Zabol city region.

Nepal

Hinduism Named State Religion in New Constitution

BK1908131090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1254 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 19 (AFP)—A new draft constitution for Nepal recommends Hinduism as the state religion, describing the country as a Hindu kingdom, drafting commission sources said here Sunday. The nine-member constitution recommendation commission, headed by Supreme Court Justice Biswanath Upadhyaya, made the recommendation in a completed confidential draft of the new constitution, the sources said. Apart from the provisions on religion, the draft recommends the introduction of a constitutional monarchy and a two-chamber legislative assembly, the sources said.

Officially, all the proceedings of the commission are secret but the draft document has been leaked by delegates from the Nepali Congress and the Nepal Communist Party.

The choice of a state religion was one of the most controversial issues facing the commission, as Buddhists and other non-Hindu groups were pushing to have Nepal declared a secular state in the constitution. Buddhists here claim to represent some 54 per cent of the total population. However, the World Hindu Organization and some 20 other Hindu groups had threatened to take to the streets in protest if the commission agreed to call the country a secular state.

Pakistan

Iraq Warned on Making Foreigners 'Human Sandbags'

BK1808152590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1505 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 18 (AFP)—Pakistan Saturday warned Iraq against using foreign nationals as "human sandbags" to protect vital installations in case of hostilities in the Gulf region.

"Any maltreatment of Pakistanis or any other nationals in Kuwait and Iraq will be highly deplorable," a foreign office spokesman here said.

"We hold the government of Iraq responsible for the safety of Pakistanis and all other foreign nationals" in the two countries, he said.

There were about 95,000 Pakistanis in Kuwait when Iraq invaded on August 2, he said. A number have escaped, but "none of the 600-plus Pakistani soldiers and technicians" attached to the Kuwaiti Air Force and Civil Aviation had come back, he said. Iraq had also failed to free about two dozen Pakistanis seized by invading Iraqi troops in Kuwait, he said.

Pakistan is among the countries that has decided to send troops to Saudi Arabia, which borders Kuwait, as a result of the Iraqi action. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's

statement that Iraq would hold the nationals of "hostile" foreign countries as long as it felt threatened has provoked fears here that Pakistanis could be placed in the line of fire.

"We know (there has been) harassment of our people and in some cases harsh treatment meted out to them," the spokesman said. But he expressed hope that Baghdad would heed Islamabad's warning over the safety of foreign nationals, saying, "we believe Iraq will not keep them as hostages and spread them around important installations as human sandbags."

Foreign Minister To Make Gulf Region Tour

BK1808160390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan is leaving on a five-day visit to Iran, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates tomorrow where he will exchange views on the changing situation in the gulf and the evacuation of Pakistanis from Kuwait. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad this evening that the foreign minister is visiting Iran on its invitation because Iran wants to discuss the Iraqi decision to withdraw its forces from Iranian territory. A high-level Iraqi delegation is to arrive in Tehran tomorrow. The Iranian leadership wants to take its closest ally, Pakistan, and Turkey into confidence. The Turkish foreign minister is arriving in Tehran tonight in this connection. The spokesman said that the foreign ministers of the three countries will review the overall situation in the gulf and its impact in the region.

In Jordan, the foreign minister will hold talks on the Jordanian stand on Iraq, the increasing pressure from the world community to implement the UN resolutions, and Jordan's role in evacuating Pakistani nationals from Kuwait. The spokesman noted that the visit is being undertaken immediately after King Husayn's tour of the United States.

In Saudi Arabia, the foreign minister will exchange views with his Saudi counterpart on the gulf situation, with special reference to Saudi Arabia's defense needs. The spokesman said that Pakistan has pledged, in principle, to assist Saudi Arabia and, in keeping with the announcement by the Pakistani Government, it is necessary to assess the extent and nature of the military assistance needed in Saudi Arabia.

In Abu Dhabi, the foreign minister will deliver a special message from caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi to President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nahayyan, and will hold consultations with him on the gulf situation.

Editorial Welcomes Trip

BK2008101990 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Aug 90 p 4

[Editorial: "On the Right Track"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's departure on Sunday for Iran on a trip which will also take him to Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, is a highly welcome, albeit belated, step taken by Pakistan towards what would hopefully emerge as this country's evolving a more realistic response to the Gulf crisis. Even if the initiative for our Foreign Minister's visit to Tehran has come from the latter side in view of the need felt by Iran to consult what it rightly considers as its strongest friends in Pakistan and Turkey, the occasion can and should, provide Islamabad with an opportunity to correct the ill-effects produced by its initial fumbling on the question of despatch of troops to Saudi Arabia. It is about time that Islamabad woke up to the reality that Pakistan, Iran and Turkey are today not only ideally placed to together play perhaps the decisive role in averting the looming catastrophe in the Middle East, but also that it is only through a joint approach by the three Muslim countries that they can secure their collective as also individual interests. [as published] The dramatic rapprochement between Iraq and Iran has already removed the major impediment to the three non-Arab Muslim countries, offering themselves as a party acceptable to both the sides currently engaged in a potentially deadly, military standoff in the Middle East. Some headway in that direction could possibly be achieved even during the instant meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the three countries in Tehran during a time when their Iraqi counterpart would also happen to be in town.

That such an initiative is likely to find wide receptivity among not only the principal parties to the dispute but also among the other major world powers outside the region, is evident from the cautious approach to the issue maintained constantly by almost everybody except the United States and good old Great Britain of Margaret Thatcher. But the first and foremost condition for sanity to be allowed a chance in the highly flared-up situation is that all extra-regional forces in and around the Arabian peninsula should beat a retreat from the area. Even as it is, the United States has been unable to convince the world community that it either has the justification to enforce its unilateral writ or the ability to achieve anything other than sparking-off what could be a veritable conflagration. Apart from the suicidal megalomania of the American Establishment personified so accurately in the arrogant attitude of President Bush, there is no reason why the situation in the Middle East must necessarily lead to hostilities which would be equally devastating for the Arab world and the growing Western military presence in the zone.

Editorial Questions Sending Troops to Saudi Arabia
BK1808130090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
18 Aug 90 p 4

[Editorial: "A Second Chance"]

[Text] The fast-changing situation in this part of the world has of late shown a number of highly significant

trends which can be ignored by Pakistan only at great risk to the country's security. When Iraq launched its unprovoked attack on Kuwait in the wake of the ICO's [Islamic Conference Organization] clear support to the cause of Pakistan on the two crucial issues of Kashmir and Afghanistan, there emerged the possibility of India's feeling emboldened to carry out its aggressive designs against this country. The scenario had been rendered all the more precarious in view of the change the development was bound to entail in terms of Iran's primary security concerns. In the changed set of circumstances, it was unlikely that the relevance of the emerging Iran factor to South Asian security environment could any longer be taken for granted. And then the Pakistan Establishment further compounded the difficulty of the situation by announcing the decision to embroil the country in the Middle East conflict. In a single go, the move amounted to dismantling the very basis of what has been pompously referred to as the building up of a "strategic consensus" between non-Arab Muslim societies of the region. The decision to send Pakistani troops to Saudi Arabia as part of the US-sponsored military build-up in the region, and amid the heightening militancy of India, thus substantiated the scepticism of those in this country who had all along maintained that the so-called strategic consensus doctrine was nothing more than an indigenous wrapping to what essentially was a Western security blueprint.

But, the phenomenal myopia displayed by our Establishment in this instance notwithstanding, the sheer force of circumstances appears bent upon providing us with yet another chance to redirect the national security perspective to a more realistic and viable framework. The indication to this effect has come from India's frenzied response to Iraq's giving up its hostile posture towards Iran. The announcement from Baghdad of conceding to all Iranian demands had sent a harried Indian Foreign Minister first to the Soviet Union, then to the United States and now to Iraq. We still retain the option of enabling Mr. Gujral to succeed in prevailing upon the Iraqi President not to take all the heat off from Iran. Given the special relationship which has continued to exist between Baghdad and New Delhi, and in view of the relative autonomy exercised by India vis-a-vis US security interests in the region, India could well offer Iraq the much-needed international outlet as a quid pro quo for keeping Iran's attention engaged on that country's eastern flank. We can help India accomplish its desire by proceeding with the despatch of Pakistani troops to Saudi Arabia. Unfortunately, it cannot be stated with certainty that the perilous choice would not be made by whoever is responsible for the country's destiny in this fluid moment in the nation's history.

Iraq Allows Pakistanis To Leave Kuwait

BK2008165990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Pakistani nationals have been allowed by Iraqi authorities to leave Kuwait. But those who wish to

remain in Kuwait may do so as authorities in Kuwait are trying to improve the law and order situation there. Messages received in Islamabad from Pakistani embassies in Baghdad, Ankara and Amman say Iraqi authorities have also notified (?routes) for the exit of Pakistani nationals. An official press release issued in Islamabad today says those who wish to leave may go by road to Baghdad, and from there to Amman. They would be issued visas on the Jordanian border. [passage omitted]

Over 3,000 Leave

*BK1808041890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 17 Aug 90*

[Text] According to a press release from the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation, 406 Pakistanis reached Karachi today from Amman, Riyadh, and Dhahran. Another 230 Pakistanis are expected to arrive in Karachi tomorrow from Kuwait via Amman. Three thousand Pakistanis have crossed over into Riyadh and another 230 into Amman from Kuwait. Meanwhile, the Pakistan International Airlines has arranged special daily flights to help repatriate Pakistanis.

Spokesman on Evacuation of 2,000 More

*BK1808162190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 18 Aug 90*

[Text] More than 2,000 stranded Pakistanis will be repatriated from Riyadh by air by Wednesday; 446 Pakistanis have already returned home. This was stated at a meeting in Islamabad today which reviewed the overall situation in light of information received from Pakistani Embassies in Kuwait, Baghdad, Amman, and Riyadh.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad this evening that the government is fully aware of the difficulties being faced by Pakistanis in Kuwait. Efforts are being made to provide all possible assistance to them under the existing situation. The spokesman said that the Government of Pakistan has established contacts with the Iraqi Government so as to arrange a speedy and orderly repatriation of Pakistanis from Kuwait. The spokesman said that the government is awaiting Iraq's announcement on the condition of foreign nationals, after which the Government of Pakistan will finalize the arrangements for the repatriation of Pakistanis. These arrangements include an emergency plan to repatriate the nationals by sea.

In reply to a question, the spokesman expressed regret that the release of two groups of technicians, consisting of 21 people, could be not secured despite consistent efforts in this regard. The Iraqis arrested these technicians immediately after the attack. The spokesman said that Iraq has assured Pakistan that no Pakistani national will be harmed.

Prime Minister on Elections, Bhutto, Indian Ties

*BK2108024290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 21 Aug 90*

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has said general elections in the country will be held on 24 October. In an interview with the Indian magazine THE DAILY, he said the Election Commission has been set up and it has begun preparations for the elections. In reply to a question on the dissolution of the assembly by the president, Jatoi said it is a constitutional step.

Answering another question, the prime minister said Ms. Benazir Bhutto will have full freedom for electioneering and if people reelect her, it will be wholeheartedly welcomed. On the possibility of disqualifying her from the elections, Jatoi said if there is some allegation against her, she will have to prove her innocence. In response to a question on Ms. Benazir Bhutto's refusal to accept the authority of the tribunals, Jatoi said these bodies are set up in accordance with the constitution of the country and she cannot defy them. Jatoi described as baseless and incorrect the rumor that there were negotiations with the former prime minister to make her quit politics.

Referring to India-Pakistan relations, the prime minister said a dialogue on basic issues is necessary to resolve problems between the two countries. Pakistan wants to continue the dialogue with India, but it should focus on the basic issues. On Kashmir, the prime minister said the UN resolutions and Simla agreement have recognized it as an issue to be settled.

Minister Reaffirms Impartial Elections, Democracy

*BK2008150090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1400 GMT 20 Aug 90*

[Text] Syeda Abida Hussain, the information minister of the caretaker federal government, has said that the government is fully determined to hold free, fair, and impartial elections on 24 October. She made these remarks at a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, which was also addressed by Chaudhary Shujat Hussain. Begum Syeda Abida Hussain scoffed at and described as incorrect all accusations made by the Pakistan People's Party Cochairperson Benazir Bhutto at her news conference yesterday. The information minister said: We have also come through a democratic process and stand for democracy, which is not associated with any one special personality or family, but which concerns the people of our country. There should be no doubt about the democratic process. We will fulfill our responsibility of holding elections in accordance with the wishes of the people, she added.

Former Minister Denies Bhutto Sought India's Help

*BK2008165490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 20 Aug 90*

[Text] Ahmad Saeed Awan, former minister of state for information and broadcasting, has described as incorrect

and baseless a report carried by Pakistan Television [PTV] citing a Bombay newspaper which said that Benazir Bhutto had asked V.P. Singh to help save her 20-month-old government from being dismissed or overthrown. The former minister alleged that PTV is engaged in character assassination of Benazir Bhutto.

Ishaq Khan Assures Bhutto of Fair Elections

*BK2008145990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1400 GMT 20 Aug 90*

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has reaffirmed that general elections will be held on 24 October this year. These elections will be free, fair, and impartial, and the people's verdict will be accepted wholeheartedly and will be respected. The president gave this assurance to the former prime minister and cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], Benazir Bhutto, who came to meet the president at the president's house at her own request. Asif Ali Zardari and Happy Minwala [Benazir Bhutto's husband and Pakistan's ambassador at large, respectively] also accompanied her. During the hour-long meeting Benazir Bhutto questioned the impartiality of members of the caretaker government and expressed the doubt that they will either not hold the elections or if they do, an attempt will be made to rig them. The president clarified that it is the responsibility of the Election Commission to hold elections and he will himself ensure the holding of elections according to his announcement.

Concerning the PPP's suggestion that speakers of the assemblies should have been appointed as caretaker prime minister and chief ministers, the president said that all the speakers were elected on party tickets and were representatives of the majority parties. Therefore, it was not expected of them to be free from their party allegiance. They could also have been accused of being partial, the president added.

The former prime minister objected to the proposed tribunals for accountability and the law under which they will operate. The president made it clear that the special tribunals will consist of high court judges and that filing appeals against their verdicts at the Supreme Court will be allowed.

Further on Meeting

*BK2008164990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 20 Aug 90*

[Excerpts] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has reaffirmed that general elections will be held on 24 October this year. These elections will be free, fair, and impartial and the people's verdict will be accepted wholeheartedly and respected. The president gave this assurance to the former prime minister and cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], Benazir Bhutto, who came to meet the president at the president's house at her own request. Asif Ali Zardari and Happy Minwala [Benazir Bhutto's

husband and Pakistan's ambassador at large, respectively] also accompanied her.

During the hour-long meeting, Benazir Bhutto questioned the impartiality of members of the caretaker government and expressed the doubt that they will either not hold the elections, or, if they do, an attempt will be made to rig them. The president clarified that it is the responsibility of the Election Commission to hold elections and he will himself ensure the holding of elections according to his announcement. The president said that no one will be allowed to influence the election results. In this connection, he referred to the 1988 elections, which were held under a caretaker government and in such an impartial manner that several ministers of the government lost elections. He said that the 1990 elections also will be held in a free and fair manner that will satisfy everyone. [passage omitted]

The former prime minister also objected to the proposed tribunals for accountability and the law under which they will operate. The president made it clear that the special tribunals will consist of high court judges and that the filing of appeals against their verdicts at the Supreme Court will be allowed. The president said that the law of accountability was introduced in 1977 by the then President Chaudhry Fazal Elahi, and since then the law has been operative, adding that her government did not object to it either. It is an accepted law under the Constitution and there should not be any reason for objection to its implementation.

The PPP cochairperson drew the president's attention to, as she put it, the caretaker government's vindictive activities against the supporters of her party. The president assured her that no one has been arrested without legal justification, nor will anyone be arrested in that manner, and no evidence against her administration will be presented through illegal means.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan also allayed Benazir Bhutto's apprehensions on the restrictions on foreign travel of some individuals. The president said their presence is needed in connection with some legal cases.

During the meeting Benazir Bhutto also complained about what she termed as her character assassination by official media. The president said that although in the matter of the use of official media the former prime minister herself had not left behind an impressive record, he expects from the caretaker government and will impress upon it the need to observe due propriety and balance in coverage of political views and events and not indulge in slander and mud-slinging. The president said that the people in a democratic setup, however, have the right to know and ascertain everything, and this right should be respected. The president said he thinks this is what is happening now.

Court Rejects Petition Challenging New Government
BK1908091090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
 0200 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] A division bench of the Lahore Court after an initial hearing yesterday rejected a writ petition challenging the legal status of the caretaker government of Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi. The bench consisted of Justice Raja Afsar Yar and Justice Ehsanul Haq Chaudhry. The writ petition was filed by Abdul Aziz Qureshi.

Spokesman Denies Bhutto Offered 'Self-Exile' Deal
BK1808164390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
 1600 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] A spokesman of the caretaker government has again contradicted Ms. Benazir Bhutto's claim in an interview with ABC TV network of the United States that a deal had been offered to ensure her self-exile from Pakistan. The spokesman reiterated that no such deal had been offered to her in this regard.

Bhutto Speaks on Party's Achievements, Goals
BK1808164190 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
 1600 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] The cochairperson of Pakistan People's Party [PPP], Benazir Bhutto Saheba [madam], has said her party would continue to strive for an Islamic, constitutional, and democratic Pakistan. Addressing a gathering of people in Rawalpindi today, she said she would continue her struggle for the rights of the people and was confident that democracy would be restored in the country. The PPP cochairperson recounted the achievements of her government, saying they raised the prestige of the country in the comity of nations, successfully projected the Kashmir issue, got a unanimous resolution from the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers on the issue, and restored students and labor unions. There was full freedom of press. She was sure that with the support and cooperation of the people her party would emerge victorious.

Reportage on Hijacking of Soviet Aircraft

Plane Commandeered in Tashkent

BK2008064690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0639 GMT
 20 Aug 90

[Text] Karachi, Aug 20 (AFP)—Unidentified people Monday hijacked a Soviet aircraft to Karachi, and Pakistani civil aviation authorities granted them permission to land, aviation sources here said. The plane, a passenger aircraft of the Soviet flag carrier Aeroflot, was commandeered soon after it took off from Tashkent, in the Soviet republic of Uzbekistan, the sources said.

The pilot circled repeatedly over the airport before obtaining the permission to land at 11:05 A.M. (0605 GMT), the sources said, but could not confirm that the

aircraft had landed. The authorities declared an emergency after alerting ambulance services.

The type of aircraft and number of passengers on board could not immediately be known.

Civil aviation and local government officials have set up a special cell at the airport to deal with the situation, and Pakistan International Airlines has offered handling facilities to Aeroflot, sources said.

(In New Delhi, authorities at the Indian capital's military airport, Palam, said they had been told the Aeroflot plane "might land here." "We have been told the plane might land here," a member of the airport authority's staff said at 11:45 local time (0615 GMT). Another member of the airport staff said he was not authorized to give out any information on the subject, while a New Delhi police spokesman said they had received the same information "about 15 minutes ago" (0600 GMT). No further details were immediately available.)

Refused Permission To Land

BK2008072690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0717 GMT
 20 Aug 90

[Text] Karachi, Aug 20 (AFP)—Unidentified people Monday hijacked a Soviet aircraft to Karachi but Pakistani civil aviation authorities withdrew permission granted earlier to land, aviation sources here said. The plane, a passenger aircraft of the Soviet flag carrier Aeroflot, was still hovering over the airport and the runway has been blocked, officials and witnesses said.

The authorities had earlier granted permission for the plane to land at 1105 A.M. local time (0605 GMT) but later withdrew the orders.

Troops have arrived at the airport, which has been closed.

Unconfirmed reports said there were about 50 passengers on board the Soviet Aeroflot aircraft. The type of plane was not yet known. Sources here believed the aircraft to have been on a domestic flight which originated from Tashkent, in the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan.

The authorities declared an emergency at the airport and had earlier alerted ambulance services. Civil aviation and local government officials have set up a special cell at the airport to deal with the situation, sources said.

Hijacking is a major crime in Pakistan punishable by death.

Aeroflot Says 29 Passengers Onboard

BK2008074290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
 0732 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] An Aeroflot jetliner from Tashkent has been hijacked. The Aeroflot sources in New Delhi said the plane which took off this morning from Tashkent is on a domestic flight with 29 passengers on board.

The whereabouts of the plane are not yet known.

Permission To Land Granted

BK2008075890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0750 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Karachi, Aug 20 (AFP)—A hijacked Soviet airliner landed here Monday after circling Karachi for hours as it sought landing permission, airport sources said.

The plane, a TU-154, landed at 12:20 p.m. (0720 GMT) amid heavy security, the sources said.

Landing in Karachi Confirmed

BK2008081090 Islamabad Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] An Aeroflot plane which was hijacked while on a flight from Tashkent to New Delhi this morning landed at Karachi Airport a short while ago. The plane has 29 passengers on board. The number and motive of the hijackers are not known.

11 Passengers Believed Involved

BK2008081890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0807 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Text] Karachi, Aug 20 (AFP)—A hijacked Soviet airliner arrived here Monday after circling Karachi airport for hours as it awaited landing permission from Pakistani authorities, aviation sources said.

There were conflicting reports on the number of passengers aboard the TU-154 of the Soviet flag carrier Aeroflot, but both the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) news agency here and the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) in New Delhi said 11 of them were believed involved in the hijacking. The number of passengers varied from 24 to 50, according to various sources.

The plane landed at 12:20 p.m. (0720 GMT) amid heavy security as the city's hospitals were also put on alert, the sources said. APP said the plane was hijacked on a flight from Tashkent, in the Soviet republic of Uzbekistan, to New Delhi.

Troops were deployed at Karachi airport, which was closed to air traffic, officials and witnesses said.

In New Delhi, a Soviet embassy spokesman confirmed that the plane had been hijacked and had taken off from Tashkent, but was unable to give further details. PTI had earlier reported that the plane was hijacked on the ground in Karachi, then took off for New Delhi before returning to Pakistan.

Civil aviation officials here first granted the plane permission to land, then withdrew the permission, officials here said.

(New Delhi's Palam military airport was still crowded with security men and ambulances were standing by despite news that the hijacked plane had landed in Karachi, eyewitnesses said. Airport sources said they were maintaining maximum alert and continuing to man

an emergency control room in case the hijacked plane flew on to New Delhi after refuelling in Karachi. Sources at the Directorate of Civil Aviation, which had given permission for the plane to land in New Delhi, said India had a treaty with the Soviet Union to deal with hijackings, whereas Pakistan had not.

(H.P.S. Verk, the deputy police commissioner for airports, said the plane first established contact with Palam at 9:30 a.m. (0400 GMT) and said it wanted to land at 11:30 p.m. Minutes later, it changed its landing time to 11:23, but the tower learned at 11:15 that the TU-154 had changed course toward Pakistan.

(Airport sources said they believed there were 21 passengers, nine crew members and 11 hijackers aboard the airliner.)

Plane Surrounded; Airport Reopened

BK2008092690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0900 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] An aircraft of the Soviet airlines Aeroflot which was hijacked while flying from Tashkent to New Delhi this morning, landed at Karachi airport this afternoon. The plane has 29 passengers on board. The number and motive of the hijackers are not known. The plane has been parked at one side of the airport and members of the law enforcement agencies have surrounded the aircraft. The airport has been opened for regular traffic.

Negotiations To 'Begin Soon'

BK2008094290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0922 GMT
20 Aug 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Karachi airport manager said negotiations with the hijackers, whose demands were not immediately known, would begin soon. "We are not directly involved in the negotiations," he said, but said he did not know who would conduct them.

The Soviet consul-general here was at the airport with members of his embassy staff, but said only that he had learned of the hijacking by telephone and "rushed to the airport." Soviet diplomatic staff would be available to interpret between local security forces and the hijackers, he said.

Pakistani Army commandos and hundreds of other troops swarmed across the airport as the plane was isolated at the end of the runway. Ambulances and fire trucks were on alert and city hospitals were told to be prepared for any eventuality, they said.

There was suspense for more than 90 minutes on whether the hijacked plane would be allowed to land in Pakistan, which has cool relations with the Soviet Union over the Afghanistan issue. Pakistani officials initially granted permission for the plane to land at 11:05 a.m. (06:05 GMT), but the permission later was withdrawn—apparently due to diplomatic reasons—and the pilot was

asked to divert to New Delhi. But the pilot said he was running short of fuel and permission was finally granted for the plane to land.

The hijackers demands were not immediately known.

The Karachi airport manager denied as "rubbish" a report from New Delhi that said the hijackers had boarded the plane here.

In September 5, 1986, 22 people were killed and dozens injured when Pakistani commandos stormed a Pan Am jumbo jet hijacked by five Arab gunmen at Karachi airport.

Hijackers Surrender; Passengers 'Safe'

*BK2008154290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 20 Aug 90*

[Text] The hijackers of the Soviet airliner surrendered to local authorities. The plane, which landed at Karachi airport this afternoon, was hijacked while travelling from Tashkent to New Delhi with 29 passengers and a nine-member crew on board. Jam Sadiq Ali, the caretaker chief minister of Sindh, personally supervised the operations to secure the release of the passengers. The hijackers were persuaded to surrender to authorities. Arrangements have been made for the repatriation of passengers to their homes. The passengers are safe and are being properly looked after.

Hijackers Reportedly Granted Asylum

*BK2108030490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0245 GMT 21 Aug 90*

[Text] According to reports, Pakistan has granted asylum to the 11 Soviet hijackers, who forced landed an Aeroflot aircraft in Karachi airport yesterday. All the 38 passengers, including nine crew members, are reported to have been freed. The aircraft along with its passengers will be leaving for Moscow today.

Our Islamabad correspondent, Suresh Chopra, understands that all the 11 hijackers have been taken into custody by the Sindh police and a case been registered against them.

Hekmatyar on Superpower 'Conspiracy' Against Rebels

*BK1908134090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
19 Aug 90 p 8*

[Text] Lahore, Aug 18—Afghan leader Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has said that the Afghan Mujahidin were facing a joint conspiracy of the two superpowers but they were confident that fortitude, endurance and consistency will bear fruit. In an interview here today, he said Afghanistan war was in accordance with the Quranic injunctions. He said no political or material gain was involved as the people of the country had all along been the victims of the manoeuvring by the superpowers.

He said when one superpower deployed its forces for the protection of its interests after coup in Afghanistan, the people of the country stood up to defend their right of self-government. He said that the USA's interests in the presence of Soviet troops were at stake, therefore, it projected the Afghan people's struggle through its media and other means.

Hekmatyar [said that] with the signing of Geneva accord, which was jointly sponsored by the two powers to save the Soviet Union ignominy at the hands of Mujahidin, paving way for the Russian withdrawal, the purpose of USA was also served. He said this development has changed the thinking of the Western powers which were singing in chorus in praise of Mujahidin. He said now they were terming Mujahidin as fundamentalists. Hekmatyar said that in spite of this the Afghan Mujahidin were determined to achieve their goal at all costs.

He said Mujahidin were controlling strategic points while the Najib administration, in spite of the support of the superpowers, was getting weaker day by day. He said the day was not far off when the Afghan Mujahidin and refugees would invite their Pakistani brethren to visit Kabul to share joys of their victory with them.

Sri Lanka

27 Reported Killed in Renewed Clashes Since 18 Aug

*BK1908091290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 19 Aug 90*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 27 people, including 15 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants and nine soldiers were killed in renewed clashes since yesterday. In Puttalam in the north, nine soldiers were killed in an encounter between the LTTE and the security forces. Meanwhile, the LTTE attack on the Jaffna Fort and Mullaitivu is continuing.

Home Guards Approved; Rebels Abduct Priest

*BK1708143290 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 17 Aug 90*

[Text] Action has been taken to provide adequate security to all villages of all communities in the Eastern Province. Home guards will be given immediate training. These measures were announced by Minister for Plantation Industries and State Minister for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne at the weekly news conference in Colombo yesterday.

Meanwhile, a well-known priest in Batticaloa, Father (Eugene Hebare), is reported to have been abducted by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists at Eravur. Father (Hebare) had not returned to his home in Batticaloa town after leaving Valaichchenai riding his motorcycle heading toward Eravur on Wednesday [15 August]. The priest was a popular figure in Batticaloa who promoted communal harmony. The security forces have now launched a massive search operation.

LTTE Infiltration Attempts in East 'Foiled'

*BK1708144090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0925 GMT 17 Aug 90*

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 17 August (LANKAPUVATH)—Several attempts by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists to infiltrate Sinhala and Muslim villages in the Eastern Province were foiled by the security forces and the police Special Task Force yesterday.

A number of terrorists were shot dead in these attempts and their weapons recovered by the forces.

According to a security forces spokesman, on the Akkaraipattu-Dheeghavapi road in Ampara yesterday morning the Special Task Force personnel ambushed a group of terrorists moving to launch an attack on a Muslim village. Two of the terrorists were killed and two G-3 rifles, a T-81 rifle, a radio set, magazines, and ammunition were recovered. It is believed that few more of the group would have suffered serious injuries.

At Unnichchi in Ampara, security forces personnel fired at a group of about 30 terrorists moving towards a Sinhala village. The terrorists have fled, taking their wounded with them.

Meanwhile, at Pottankadu in Kantale the security forces shot dead two LTTE members from a group that was attempting to attack a Sinhala village last night. One T-56 rifle, two hand grenades, magazines, ammunition and other items were recovered.

According to the spokesman, the terrorists are now attempting to infiltrate Sinhala and Muslim villages in

smaller numbers as a means of avoiding the stepped up activity of the government forces in the border villages.

Meanwhile, security forces yesterday shot dead an LTTE leader named Navarasa in Arapattai in Batticaloa and recovered a pistol and several hand grenades.

The terrorist was killed when he attempted to break the cordon and search operation carried out in this predominantly Tamil village next to the village of Kattankudi about two miles south of Batticaloa town. Two weeks ago at Kattankudi over a hundred Muslims at prayers in two mosques were massacred by the LTTE.

Navy Kills 6 LTTE 'Terrorists' 15 Aug

*BK1708144890 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0805 GMT 17 Aug 90*

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 17 August (LANKAPUVATH)—The Sri Lanka Navy on Wednesday [15 August] night shot dead six LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists returning from a trip to South India and captured their large fibreglass dinghy carrying arms and ammunition.

An Israeli-made Dvora patrol craft of the Navy detected the dinghy powered by three outboard motors, two 75 HP Yamaha engines, and one 65 HP Johnson engine close to the land at Champiyanpattu, 12 miles south of Point Pedro.

The six occupant Tigers had beached the boat and were fleeing when the Navy fire killed all.

The items recovered from the dinghy included a 60-mm shoulder-firing gun (similar to an anti-tank Bazooka), 228 rounds of Indian magazines and five pouches.